



Summer 2019

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Whittier College

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theROCK

WHITTIER COLLEGE MAGAZINE

in this issue

Leading Cultural Change and Innovation on the Poet Campus



THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT LINDA OUBRÉ

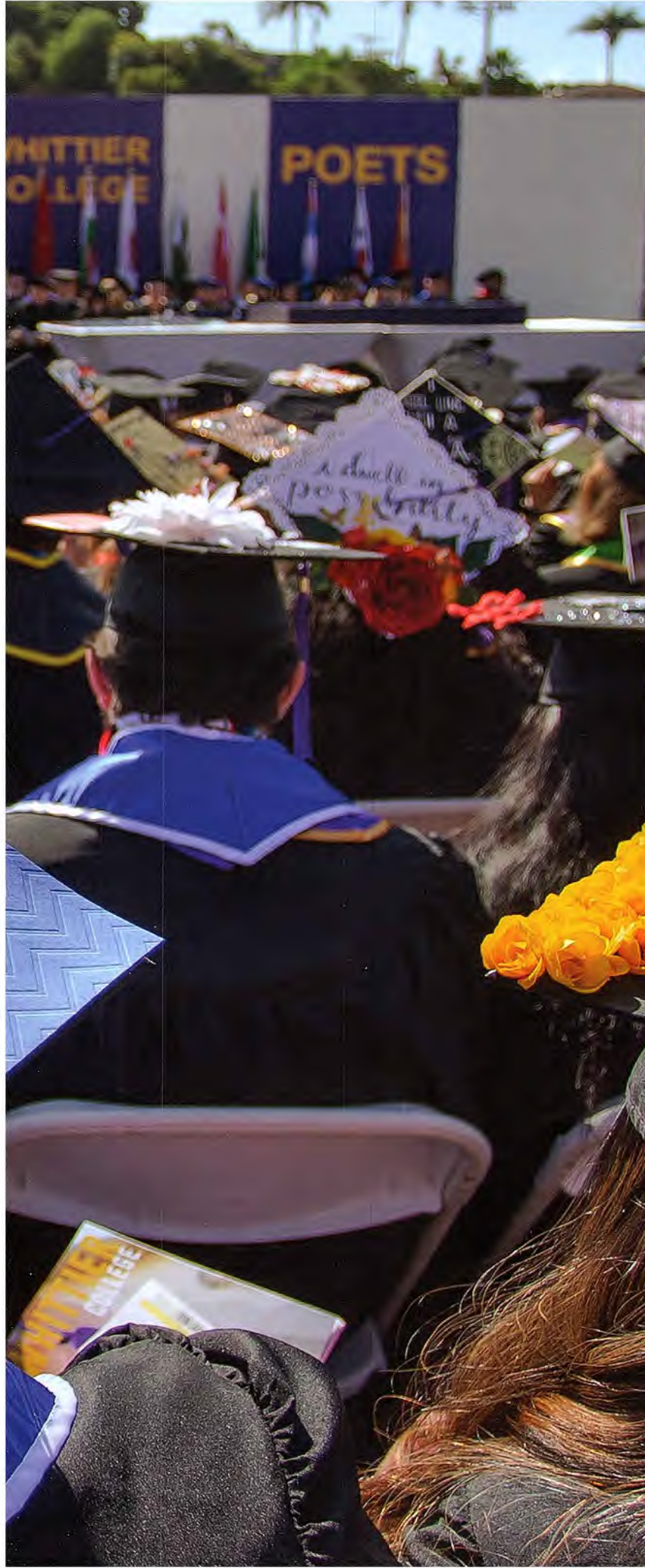




NOW
I'M LIKE

THIS CYLINDER
WE'RE BOTH
GRADUATED

2019



FEATURES

22 TURNING ACTIVISM TO SCHOLARSHIP

Whittier College offers students an array of unique learning opportunities—many of which encourage students to step outside of the classroom to see how theories learned behind a desk can take form in the outside world. Exploring different academic fields, Professor of Sociology Becky Overmyer-Velazquez and Professor of Business Administration Kristen Smirnov have taken their respective students into Los Angeles—using it as a learning laboratory—to investigate topics ranging from pollution and environmental health to consumer behavior and retail development.

26 LEADING CULTURAL CHANGE AND INNOVATION ON THE POET CAMPUS

Her journey to become Whittier's historic 15th president began when 5-year-old Linda Oubré was pulled out of her classroom for a cognitive test. The path to office would take her to a UCLA campus energized with activism, to innovative and engaging Harvard Business School classrooms, to the boardrooms of several start-up companies, and to college campuses seeking her brand of leadership. With her strong character and forward-thinking style, Oubré was naturally prepared for the obstacles she encountered along the path and is primed for the opportunities still ahead at Whittier.

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ALUMNI SURVEY – THE RESULTS ARE IN!

In late 2018, Whittier College (WC) undertook a comprehensive Alumni Survey. We asked for your input and you made your voices heard! We received nearly 1,000 responses. Many of you told us that you were happy with your decision to attend Whittier and that your education prepared you for professional life. At the same time, some of you were less than satisfied with your experience as alumni. This valuable feedback will contribute to the growth of Whittier College and continue to shape the future of Alumni Relations programs.

Respondents broken down by grad year:

317 ▶ PRIOR TO 1973
104 ▶ 1974-1980
146 ▶ 1981 – 1993
101 ▶ 1994-2000
110 ▶ 2001-2008
201 ▶ 2009-PRESENT

PERCENTAGE IN-STATE: **63%**

OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.: **5%**

FEMALE: **55%** MALE: **44%**

What alumni value about WC:

- Value and respect for degree
- Availability of scholarships
- Diversity and inclusion
- Accomplishments of students
- History and traditions
- Relationships with faculty

90% of respondents felt it was a good or great decision to attend WC.

- > 90% of respondents described their experience as a WC student as good or excellent
- > 80% of respondents described their current opinion of WC as good or excellent
- > 90% of respondents said they are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the course of their career and that WC prepared them adequately or very well.

Where WC can do better:

47% only **occasionally** promote WC
45% rate their alumni experience as **good**
46% of alumni felt **strongly** connected to WC

Suggestions to better serve our Alumni:

- More information about alumni benefits (whittier.edu/alumnibenefits)
- More career support after graduation (whittier.edu/careers)
- More professional networking opportunities
- More invitations to events and activities
- More opportunities to mentor current WC students and to serve as ambassadors for the College

The Office of Alumni Relations is here to keep you connected to your alma mater. Make sure we have your up-to-date contact information so that we can keep you in the loop about College news, upcoming events, professional and mentorship opportunities, alumni benefits, and more. We also invite you to follow us on social media – Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

We are always listening! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions email us at alumni@whittier.edu.

Go Poets!

the**ROCK** WHITTIER COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Hello Poets!



On a beautiful day in February, the Whittier College community came together to usher in a new era. As I said on that day, an inauguration of a new president is not about any one individual, it is about honoring a collective vision for the going-forward mission of this wonderful institution.

Over the past year, I have travelled more than 35,000 miles and met thousands of Poets. I have championed our three strategic initiatives: a focus on equity and inclusion in support of student success, finding new sources of revenue to invest in our mission and make us financially sustainable, and aligning our resources to our mission. And I have heard a consistent theme from you that Whittier College is a place that finds the unique passion in every student which enables them to grow and thrive.

In the pages that follow, you will read more about what makes this College a special place, one that is poised for an innovative future. Whether it's bringing a unique art collection from China to the Whittier campus, installing a coffee orchard as an outdoor learning lab that engages our students in sustainable agriculture, supporting student scientific research both locally and abroad, or inspiring creativity on the stage and beyond, we are embracing a culture of change.

Cultural change is about people and is built on a vision of equity and inclusion. At Whittier, we are intentionally seeking to create an environment that allows for the diverse voices and perspectives that we need to sustain our future. Whether it's our faculty, administrative leaders, staff, students, or external stakeholders, "who's in the room" matters. It is only through diversity of perspectives and ideas that we will develop a culture of innovation. Culture change is the foundation of innovation.

As we look forward to the coming year, we will continue the work of finding ways to think differently about the markets we serve, the academic programs we offer, the ways we deliver and support student learning, and our role in ensuring that a college education continues to be affordable. Specifically, our faculty are continuing their work to refresh and renew our curriculum, while finding ways to leverage our strength as an institution that provides education in the liberal arts and sciences. We are also initiating an institution-wide strategic planning exercise, the results of which will serve as the road map for making our vision operational for the next decade. We are launching several non-degree programs that will leverage our strengths while providing new diverse sources of investment. We are sharpening our fundraising priorities to support student success and working to develop new strategic partnerships and relationships. All of these efforts will provide the scaffolding on which we will build a sustainable future.

I am proud of the future we are building at Whittier College, and am pleased to have all of you as partners in our future.

With warm regards,

Linda Oubré, Ed.D., MBA

President

"AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE COMING YEAR, WE WILL CONTINUE THE WORK OF FINDING WAYS TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THE MARKETS WE SERVE, THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WE OFFER, THE WAYS WE DELIVER AND SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING, AND OUR ROLE IN ENSURING THAT A COLLEGE EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE AFFORDABLE."

Linda Oubré, President



Anderson Appointed Whittier College Vice President

Timothy Anderson was appointed vice president for advancement and strategic partnerships at Whittier College. Anderson will lead the College's fundraising, business development, alumni relations, advancement services, and communications and marketing efforts in support of revenue generation for the College, and will continue to serve on the President's Cabinet.

"Timothy is a seasoned leader and has provided strategic thinking, financial and operational analysis, and performance management expertise to the Advancement organization," said Whittier College President Linda Oubré.

Anderson has an extensive career in fundraising, business development, marketing, and planning in both higher education and industry. Prior to Whittier, he served as the chief development officer for the College of Business at San Francisco State University as well as the institution's executive director of development and operations. There, Anderson increased fundraising for the College of Business by more than 6,000%. He was also instrumental in finding new funding sources and collaborating with over 200 faculty to implement new programs in career leadership development, innovation and entrepreneurship, commercial real estate, and hospitality.

Anderson brings a wealth of leadership and start-up experience as an internet and marketing veteran at Amazon.com, SBCTSMARTpages.com, and j2 Global. He started his career in finance, strategic planning, and business development at the Times Mirror Company, Knight-Ridder Information, and the *Washington Post*.

Originally from South Central Los Angeles, Anderson is a first-generation college attendee. He received his Bachelor of Arts in economics from UCLA and his MBA from the Harvard Business School.



Artistic R

COFFEE ORCHARD COMING TO WHITTIER COLLEGE

Two Whittier College professors have broken ground on a coffee orchard located in the middle of campus. The goal is to produce locally grown sustainable coffee while teaching the next generation of urban farmers.

The project, Golden State Brew, aims to bring together several narratives—agricultural, ecological, cultural, and historic—that have converged in what may be the state's next agricultural gold rush: growing sustainable coffee.

"We are very excited to see this project come to life as we move forward to providing not only a new resource for the community, but also a great learning opportunity for students, who will be helping each step of the way," said Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Cinzia Fissore, who, along with Associate Professor of History Natale Zappia, is spearheading the innovative endeavor.

Through their research, Fissore and Zappia learned that intercropping coffee with avocados yields agricultural and economic benefits and can improve soil quality. They also discovered the campus once housed hundreds of avocado trees, and wanted to revive this agricultural practice.

Coffee is a relatively new addition to Southern California's agricultural landscape and is an emerging enterprise. Being a part of this coffee renaissance places Whittier at the forefront of the sustainability movement. The campus will be a pioneer in this area of coffee research and urban agricultural training.

Fissore and Zappia are also working closely with former student Stephanie Alcalá '15, a sustainability supervisor for Coffee Manufactory, a new sustainable coffee roasting company that is part of the San Francisco-based Tartine Group. Alcalá will bring her coffee expertise to the project—she received a master's degree from the University of Michigan in ecology and evolutionary biology and traveled to Panama to further study coffee genetics—and will act as a liaison between the College and the Los Angeles coffee industry.

Urban gardening has been present on campus for several years. Fissore and Zappia, along with Associate Professor of Sociology Sally Johnston, oversee the College's Sustainable Urban Farm (SURF) learning laboratory.

CELEBRATING DIVERSE ART IN LOS ANGELES



Not everyone gets to work at one of the biggest art museums in the nation as a college sophomore.

Danielle Pesqueira '21, an art history major minoring in anthropology and gender studies, was thrilled to hear she'd earned the privilege. For the past several months, she's been working on photography exhibitions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the largest art museum in the western United States, thanks to the Andrew W. Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program.

The two-year fellowship provides historically underrepresented students across the country with hands-on experience in a museum, where they help curators and staff on exhibitions, collections, and programs.

Pesqueira earned her place in the fellowship after an intensive week at LACMA last summer. She and 14 other students applying for the fellowship each analyzed a photograph in the museum's collection. Pesqueira was assigned a small photograph by Rose Mandel—so small,

it could fit in your palm. The black-and-white image captured an eye reflected in a window, and Pesqueira was able to deftly assess how it showcased intimacy. Her analysis was so strong, she made the cut as merely a rising sophomore. She shares that distinction with only a few in her national cohort.

Now in the first year of the program, Pesqueira has been learning the ins and outs of LACMA's operations and assisting with its photography exhibits.

"I've loved it so far," she said. "I know that this is a really great opportunity."

She's also been happy to blend her fellowship with her classes at Whittier. The encyclopedic museum provides ample examples for her to use in her class assignments, while the lessons she learns about art history come in handy when she heads to work.

Pesqueira, a Latina, hopes to celebrate culturally diverse points of view in the museum. It's also her goal to one day educate people about art, particularly female artists.

Diversity in art is a topic Whittier is tackling, as well. Kate Albers, associate professor of art and visual culture, teaches a new course at the College focusing on Latinx artists' work in the past 100 years, which Albers said hasn't received as much recognition, particularly in academia. As she leads her students through murals, photographs, and other artwork, Pesqueira's enthusiasm is clear as she eagerly engages with the class.

"She's clearly passionate about a more inclusive version of art history, a more inclusive role for museums addressing and incorporating a much broader spectrum of artists, of artwork," Albers said. "She has a maturity in the way that she talks about that question and that challenge that's facing museums now, really nationally... I think that she is well positioned to be doing the kind of work that she wants to do."

Professor of Art History Paula Radisich helped Pesqueira apply for the fellowship, which has given her access to an amazing resource. Pesqueira knows an advanced degree is expected for curatorial work, and her preparation as an undergraduate has given her a strong start.

"I'VE LOVED IT SO FAR.
I KNOW THAT THIS
IS A REALLY GREAT
OPPORTUNITY."

Danielle Pesqueira '21,
Art History Major

THE WALKERS ARRIVE ON CAMPUS

Just beyond the Whittier College Campus Courtyard, 10 7-foot-tall steel sculptures scale the grassy hills, traveling in an unknown direction. After years of inspiration and months of planning by Poet faculty, students, and alumni, the Whittier College campus is the permanent home of *The Walkers*: a set of original sculptures by renowned contemporary Chinese artist Wang Luyan.

Wang's sculptures explore themes that will surely resonate with college students. According to the artist, "*The Walkers* appear to be advancing and retreating simultaneously – the uncertainty of the direction that *The Walkers* are headed towards represents the ambiguity of mankind's dreams and goals. One may have already deviated from their goal even though they think they are moving in its direction. While moving towards the future, they are also moving backwards towards the unforgettable past."

"The sculptures themselves are an amazing addition to the campus, but I think what makes this project really special is the story behind it," said Amy Trinh '20, one of the many students who helped implement the installation of *The Walkers*.

Wang has had a decades-long relationship with the College. His brother, Xinsheng, studied abroad at Whittier College more than 30 years ago, and during his time here, he worked with Professor of History Robert Marks to arrange an exhibition of Wang's work in the Greenleaf Gallery. Coincidentally, at the very same time, a homegrown Poet, Randall Davidson '88, was studying abroad in China, where he formed an unlikely friendship with Luyan. Thanks to these serendipitous connections, Wang's first-ever international exhibition was at Whittier in 1986, and Wang has had an important link with the College ever since.

After studying at Whittier College, Xinsheng stayed in the United States to further his education until he passed away unexpectedly in 2004. The last time Wang had seen his brother before he passed was at his Whittier art exhibition years ago.

In 2017, Davidson, Marks, and Wang reconvened during a visit to China, and Wang told them that he wanted to donate a sculpture to Whittier to honor his brother and to celebrate the special place that the College held in both of their hearts.

Marks, who is retiring from Whittier College after 41 years, was committed to complete the installation of the statues in his final year on-campus. "It's bigger than me; it's bigger than [Wang]; it's bigger than all of us," Marks said of the project. "It speaks to friendship, to family, to global connections, and to universal values that we all share."

But Marks couldn't do it alone: he enlisted a crew of hard-working Poets to execute the plan. Under the mentorship and guidance of Marks, Davidson, Professor of Business Administration Daniel Duran, and administrative coordinator of the LIASE Project Denise Wong Velasco, 11 dedicated students worked together in the laborious process of transporting the sculptures from Beijing to Whittier to enrich the Whittier College community with Wang's heartfelt donation.

For nearly eight months, a multi-skilled student group collaborated with faculty, administration, and alumni to coordinate the successful installation of the statues. Using each of their unique backgrounds and expertise, the group of students conducted research, budgeted the project, mapped out the logistics of transporting the sculptures from Dadong, China, to Whittier, planned a site for the sculptures, translated Mandarin, and promoted the exhibition.

For these students, the process of coordinating the installation was a hands-on interdisciplinary opportunity. For example, Trinh, who is studying Digital Art and Design, Consumer Behavior

Marketing, and Chinese through the Whittier Scholars Program, had the opportunity to combine her interests in art and Chinese with her talent as an aspiring graphic designer to lead the group's marketing efforts and contribute her translating skills to the project.

Maya Choy '21, a business administration major, computer science minor, and one of the founding members of the student team, did everything from painting wooden figures of *The Walkers*, to organizing community outreach, planning the reception for the unveiling of the sculptures, writing the background story of the donation, presenting to Senate to ask for funding, and more.

According to Choy, "*The Walkers* are not only a permanent installation on campus but a physical manifestation of student involvement here at Whittier College. They are a symbol of many different disciplines coming together: art, graphic design, business, history, language, and more. I hope future students will see it as a representation of what students at Whittier can accomplish."

The culmination of all this hard work took place at a reception and artist talk in May, where the sculptures were officially unveiled. The artist, Wang, was on hand to talk about his work. *The Walkers* now stand at the center of the College as a symbol of interdisciplinarity, the College's global impact, diversity on campus, and friendship across cultures.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Wang Luyan is a successful contemporary avant-garde Chinese artist. Along with famed artist Ai Weiwei and others, Wang is a founding member of the 1979 artists' collective called the "Stars," a self-described group of "unofficial" artists who made a bold call for artistic freedom in China. Since the 1990s, he has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in China, as well as international exhibitions at the Galleria Alessandro Bagnai (Florence, Italy, 2015), Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain (Saint-Étienne Métropole, France, 2014), Parkview Green Exhibition Hall (Beijing, 2013), Galerie RX (Paris, France, 2012), the Total Museum (Seoul, South Korea, 2010), and the Australian National Maritime Museum (Sydney, 2018), among six others. He is a globally recognized name in the world of the visual arts.

"THE WALKERS ARE NOT ONLY A PERMANENT INSTALLATION ON CAMPUS BUT A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT HERE AT WHITTIER COLLEGE. IT'S A SYMBOL OF MANY DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES COMING TOGETHER: ART, GRAPHIC DESIGN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, HISTORY, LANGUAGE, AND MORE. I HOPE FUTURE STUDENTS WILL SEE IT AS A REPRESENTATION OF WHAT STUDENTS AT WHITTIER CAN ACCOMPLISH."

Maya Choy '21, Business
Administration major

Using Math to Teach Computers to See

To learn how to “see,” computers need teachers like mathematics major Jacob Householder ’21: excited yet patient, diligent yet adaptable.

When Householder talks about computer vision—training devices to recognize objects through the “eyes” of their lenses—he’s electric with enthusiasm. Discussing the basics of the concept, Householder picks up a water bottle and places it behind a stack of t-shirts, leaving it partly out of view. He describes how if someone can help a computer’s electronic eye fill in what’s missing, they can train the computer to recognize the partly hidden water bottle again on its own.

The evolving technology has ramifications across health care, defense, apps, and even self-driving cars. It isn’t easy to implement, but where some see a challenge, Householder sees an invitation. It fascinates him to transform the complexity of natural phenomena into mathematical terms: in this case, turning the capacities of human vision into formulas. With enough practice and development, computers can recognize anything from tumors to buildings—from orbit.

Like a persistent teacher working with a child, Householder taught the computer to see, and understand what it was seeing. One major step: teach the computer to recognize an optical illusion. It’s as tricky as it sounds.

“You know those Pac-Man-shaped circles with the corners cut out, and there’s a square in there?” Householder asks, referring to an illusion like the Kanizsa Square. In this famous example, four “Pac-Man” shapes arranged in four “corners” tricks the human brain into seeing a square that isn’t really there.

The phenomenon occurs in our brains automatically, but a computer needs humans to help it connect those dots, so to speak.

As Householder and his mentor, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Fred Park, worked diligently for weeks, the computer would get better and better at seeing shapes for what they were—even ones that only exist in the abstract, like the Kanizsa Square. The student and professor are excited by their promising results, and have submitted them for publication.

The complex concepts and calculations of computer vision were new territory for Householder. But he was excited from day one to rise to the task. As technical challenges kept popping up, Householder got into the habit of slowing down and revisiting the relevant reference material to gain a deeper understanding of the problem at hand.

“There was a lot of learning on the spot as I was going through it,” he said. But with an undaunted desire to learn, Householder picked up and honed his new skills with Park as his guide. The computer wasn’t the only one with a knack for learning and a good teacher.

Park saw his student’s tremendous growth during the challenging project. Householder learned how to nimbly work through any difficulties with outside-of-the-box engineering. He ultimately honed the kind of critical thinking skills that are of “utmost importance in any field,” Park said. “Here, he is gaining these skills firsthand at an accelerated pace.”

Park, too, is fascinated with the possibilities of training computers to mimic human cognition.

“Lots of principles from cognitive psychology are mathematically modeled in computer vision. It is a nice mix of math, computer science, and engineering,” Park said. “It is extremely rewarding and fun to learn new math concepts and find real world applications for them. I feel that in this age of the digital revolution, computer vision advancements will only grow and it is exciting to be part of this growth.”

Now, Householder’s ready to tackle a new problem: coaching a computer to be nimble in its thinking, too, through “machine learning.”



“THERE WAS A LOT OF LEARNING ON THE SPOT AS I WAS GOING THROUGH IT.”

*Jacob Householder '21
mathematics major*

“When people want to train computers to automatically run complex calculations, what often happens is that they’ll train it to specialize and get really good at a certain set of data. But when new data of the same type comes the computer’s way, it doesn’t adapt well,” he said.

Essentially, computers aren’t always great at adapting to new problems. Good news for them: Householder is getting better at it every day.

Students Travel Abroad to Help Communities in Need



After traveling more than 2,000 miles from Whittier College to Honduras, 12 students from the College's chapter of Global Medical Brigades boarded a bus that took them to Cordoncillo, a small rural community in this Central American country known for its rich natural resources, beautiful wildlife, and high poverty rate.

"Nearly 50 percent of people living in these rural communities live below the poverty line," said club president Jasmine Cao '19, a pre-med student majoring in Biological and Psychological Environmental Factors of Health through the Whittier Scholars Program. "Millions of people lack access to clean water and improved sanitation infrastructure."

In May 2018, the Whittier brigade spent a week setting up free clinics, helping triage patients, taking vital signs, shadowing licensed doctors, and assisting pharmacists to fill prescriptions. Whittier students also provided public health education on vital topics such as understanding personal health, preventative care, and dental care. And, taking "hands-

on" to the next level, the group helped build latrines for various homes, which provide sanitary and proper waste disposal.

"Over the course of seven days, we successfully treated over 800 patients, built latrines for six homes, handed out over 900 hygiene kits (which included toothbrushes, toothpastes, condoms, soap, shampoo, floss, and much more) and raised a total of over \$15,000 for patients in Honduras," said Cao.

Cao says she established the group on the Whittier campus because she wanted to provide students with the opportunity to travel abroad to help and provide healthcare to underserved communities. Her aim is for the group to thrive at Whittier and continue to serve disadvantaged communities every year. Next up, the group will travel to Panama.

Cross-National Student Teams Strive for Global Sustainability



Kicking off the 2019 spring semester, Whittier College and Hang Seng Management University of Hong Kong (HSMU) joined forces to present the inaugural Social Innovation Competition.

After collaborating for two months via Skype and social media—working around a 16-hour time difference—HSMU students visited the Whittier campus to present their final projects to an audience of peers and professionals and compete for thousands of dollars in cash prizes.

The competition, jointly sponsored by both institutions, included teams comprised of one student from each college to present a socially

innovative project that would assist in the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development goals. These goals focus on solving critical global issues like poverty, inequality, climate, and environmental degradation, among others, and the UN hopes to meet all their objective by the year 2030.

The cross-national student pairs addressed UN themes including responsible production and consumption, quality education, sustainable cities and communities, and the elimination of poverty.

First place winners, Nathan Armas '20 and Lam Chun Kai (Thomas), focused on quality education and won the grand prize of \$2,500. The pair will have the opportunity to launch their proposed project with the help of an additional \$4,000 in seed funding. Second and third place winners were awarded \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

Armas is a business administration major with a concentration in marketing and international business and a minor in Spanish at Whittier. Lam is a data science and business intelligence major at HSMU, with a minor in actuarial science. After graduation, they each plan to continue their education and earn their master's degrees in financial fields.

Whittier College sponsors included the Department of Business Administration and the Office of International Programs.

STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD IN SPRING PLAY



Pippin, the Stephen Schwartz award-winning musical, is the story of one young man's journey to be extraordinary. Fittingly, the Whittier College spring production of this fantastical musical involved a number of extraordinary students both on and behind the stage.

Led by Professor of Theatre Jennifer Holmes, *Pippin*'s directorial crew included Sydney Summers '19, as vocal director, and Athena Zecha '19, as choreographer and dance director. The two seniors uniquely contributed their expertise to the success of the musical and completed work toward their senior projects.

Summers, a double-major in theatre and music, has been preparing for her senior project for two years. Holmes pitched the idea to Summers after working with her on Whittier's 2017 production of the musical *Next to Normal*, asking her if she would be interested in music-directing a future show.

Summers has no shortage of experience in the field. She has been studying voice for 10 years, and has experience teaching and directing children at musical theatre summer

camp and coaching adults in private vocal lessons. Relatively confident in her abilities, she agreed to Holmes' proposal, and spent the next two years brushing up on her piano skills in preparation for this year's musical, which she and Holmes chose together.

"I love working with kids, but it's such a different product working with young adults. It's been musically more involved for me, to be able to hear really complex chords and six-part harmonies; to be able to work so intensely with the dynamics and emotional content of the song," said Summers. "Overall, it has so much more depth to it than anything I've ever worked on before."

Summers' main goal after graduation is to perform. But, she also plans to continue exploring the teaching field and other artistic pursuits.

Summers feels that Whittier has uniquely prepared her to pursue her dreams. "The number-one thing that Whittier has taught me is independence. Being able to feel secure on my own, in my own ability, because of the support system that we have here," she said.

Zecha, a theatre major with a minor in Chinese, worked with Holmes to teach the cast of *Pippin* a dozen original, stylized dance numbers. Zecha has based her senior project on research and exploration of the iconic choreographer Bob Fosse, who directed and choreographed the original Broadway production of *Pippin*.

"Since starting college as a first-year, I've known that I wanted to challenge myself to choreograph and create something as part of my senior project," Zecha said. "My end goal was to have a performance piece that I could showcase."

Zecha has been part of the Whittier College Dance Team since her first year—and in her senior year, she was team captain. She applied the skills she learned from the team into her work on *Pippin*—where, in addition to choreographing the show, she performed as a featured dancer in the ensemble.

KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

Led by Professor of Theatre Gil Gonzalez, Whittier College hosted the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in downtown Los Angeles this past February. Gonzalez recently completed his term as chair of KCACTF Region 8, where he continues to serve as the region's financial director.

A number of *Pippin* cast members participated in the festival, volunteering countless hours to keep the festival of 1,400 participants up and running, all the while excelling in the competitive

areas of the festival, earning honors across a number of categories.

KCACTF participants attend workshops and auditions, watch and participate in a variety of performances, and compete against students from across the region for highly competitive awards and scholarships in the theatre arts.

Pippin lead, Jacob Shore '19, along with fellow castmates Cole DiGrazia '21 and Ariel Horton '21 were selected to perform in 10-minute plays for the New Play Project. Both of the plays the students worked on advanced to the National KCACTF Finals.

Sabrina Astengo '21 was awarded a scholarship to the Open Jar Institute, an intensive musical theatre residency program in New York City. Before the awards ceremony, Astengo and Taylor Penn '21 earned coveted spots in the Musical Theatre Initiative Cabaret, where they had the opportunity to share their talents with an audience of peers and professionals.

Samantha Palladini '21 won an honorable mention for her work in the Institute for Theatre Journalism and Advocacy Critics' Competition. And, student director Lauren Estrada '20 advanced to the final round of the student directing competition for her scene, starring Madalyn Matosian '20, Horton, and Kevin Weissinger '19.

Jillian Weber '22 was awarded a four-week residency and full scholarship to The Gaiety School of Acting, the National Theatre School of Ireland.

"SINCE STARTING COLLEGE AS A FIRST-YEAR, I'VE KNOWN THAT I WANTED TO CHALLENGE MYSELF TO CHOREOGRAPH AND CREATE SOMETHING AS PART OF MY SENIOR PROJECT."

Athena Zecha '19, theatre major



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Empathy and Insight through Robotics

As Danica Cooley '20 makes a fist, opens her hand, and pulls her fingers into the shaka sign, a black robotic duplicate of her hand and forearm smoothly mirrors her every movement.

A black armband on Cooley's arm is reading her brain's signals, expressed by muscle movements in her upper arm, and transferring those signals to the robotic prosthetic. She maneuvers the artificial extension of herself with the curious fascination of a scientist—she's majoring in kinesiology, with a particular interest in prosthetics.

Like a robotic arm, no treatment is one size fits all. In the process of creating and testing her own prosthetic arm, Cooley has learned that the learning curve of adopting a robotic prosthetic is different for everyone. As a fledgling physical therapist, Cooley has been investigating that curve so that she can better empathize with her future patients and guide them through the treatment best suited for them.

Myoelectric prosthetics—which use muscle signals to control a device, like the arm Cooley produced—are a big deal in the field, right now. Scientists around the country are testing their possibilities, from whether they can be so fine-tuned that a cellist can once again play classical music, to whether simplified versions

can be so cost-effective that they're widely available in developing countries. Cooley is adding to that ongoing, national experiment with an important, patient-centered question: how can clinicians tell if a myoelectric prosthetic is right for a particular patient, before they buy it, struggle, and potentially abandon it?

Cooley was able to produce a myoelectric arm piece by piece with the College's 3-D printer. Even with an open-source code for the design as a foundational starting point, 3-D printing a robotic arm is an exercise in diligence and troubleshooting. Cooley would program the printer to produce a piece and come back the next day only to find the plastic component had come out too soft and weak, or clumped together with another piece.

This intricate level of 3-D printing is hard, but it's worth the effort. The same is true of innovation.

"This is my personal, professional opinion: if you're just doing something that works with the first effort, you need to step up your game," said Joshua Haworth, assistant professor of kinesiology, who mentored Cooley through the project. Becoming an innovator is difficult. But the learning curve gives students the professional skill set of perseverance and, when they push themselves, they rise above the millions of people who settle for simply accomplishing what's already been done.

Cooley persisted, and it paid off. After a lot of trial, error, tweaking, hopeful days and deflating defeats—she finally had a fully formed human forearm and hand, sleek black and ready for experimentation. With the assistance of computer science alumnus Julian Droetti '18 on writing the code that controls the arm, Cooley successfully programmed the arm to respond to her movements.

"It was crazy. Professor Haworth and I just started freaking out," Cooley said. "It's kind of like your child when you watch it walk for the first time. That's a little dramatic, but that's how we felt."

To better understand how users engage with the technology, Cooley invited people to wear the armband and use her newly minted robotic arm. Strapped in, they went through the motions: moving their arm, making a fist, picking up a coin. The motions were simple enough, but Cooley kept an analytical eye out for who demonstrated "exploratory behavior." Did they try out new gestures of their own accord? And how quick were they in learning how to do all of these things, and do them well?

Cooley and Haworth are still analyzing all of the data from their studies, including the movement information captured on the lab's motion-capture cameras. By the end, they hope to have a good profile of the kind of patient more likely to use a myoelectric limb. The findings can also help engineers design a better product.

After she graduates, Cooley plans to attend physical therapy school, with an emphasis in prosthetics and orthotics (external aids, like ankle braces or shoe inserts). Beyond that, she's interested in continuing to study the potential for technology to improve patients' care.

"[Technology] is what our world is moving towards, and it would be cool to integrate that more into my work," she said.



STUDENTS AIM TO IMPROVE TOWN-GOWN RELATIONS

Sitting in a large conference room, surrounded by city officials, Annie Hawkins '19 and Emily Olague '19, along with Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Andrew Dzeguze, presented the findings of their class research project—a survey of Whittier College students' perception of the City of Whittier.

The research began last fall in Dzeguze's public administration course and was inspired by City Council Member Henry Bouchot. A relatively new member of the City Council, Bouchot had reached out to the College to gain a sense of students' attitudes toward the City, particularly the Uptown area, in order to better incorporate student interests into future public policy discussions.

To gather this information, the class first designed a tool that would survey their peers and provide useful data that could be shared with Bouchot and other local civic and business leaders.

Through a controlled survey—administered to 125 students—the class gauged students' views of a number of topics surrounding the city, including, but not limited to, public services, Uptown Whittier and its businesses, and whether students intend to make Whittier their residence after college. Ultimately, the results suggested that the student body does

not generally feel a strong connection to the City of Whittier. Yet, the survey also found that many students wished the College felt more united with the town as a whole.

"This survey project was an example of how we can integrate meaningful civic engagement experiences into our political science curriculum," said Dzeguze.

"Students learned about the value and proper use of qualitative research methods and data analysis such as interviewing, coding, and thematic analysis in the context of a real world public policy investigation."

Following Hawkins' and Olague's presentation of the group's findings, local leaders expressed interest in continuing to communicate with the campus and addressing student concerns in hopes of bridging the gap between the College and local community.

In fact, Bouchot quickly convened a meeting where Hawkins, Olague, and Dzeguze met with representatives of the Uptown Whittier Improvement Association, Whittier Uptown Association, and Whittier Chamber of Commerce to provide an overview of their research results.

"It was a wide-ranging discussion and the students did an excellent job in representing Whittier College," said Dzeguze, who hopes to keep the project going and will continue to encourage his students to be engaged with the community. "This type of access and input into governance is one of the things that makes Whittier a special place."

JAPANESE SUIT OF ARMOR

(1558-1569)

Housed in the bottom floor of the Bonnie Bell Wardman Library among the College archives, a Japanese samurai suit of armor sits enclosed within a plexiglass case.

Its pristine condition is a testament to the durability of the garment as it dates to the mid 16th-century. The suit is part of a collection of diplomatic gifts donated to Whittier College in 1979 by President Richard M. Nixon '34. He received the suit as a gift from Japan on one of his trips to the country while serving as Vice President of the United States.

In addition to the samurai suit, the eclectic compilation of items in the Nixon collection includes a terracotta bust of the former president by Italian artist Gualberto Rocchi, an official document originally signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, a silver medal presented at the inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1957, a gold watch presented by King Saud of Saudi Arabia in 1955, and a model of the coronation barge of the King of Thailand presented in 1960, among many others.

The samurai suit was created by Myochin Yoshitsugu, a famous armor maker who lived in the Iwaki District during the Eiroku Period (1558-1569). It was hereditarily owned by Sadanobu Matsudaira, a Japanese government minister who served his country in the late 1700s. Samurai wore elaborate battle gear like this suit as they went off to battle.

The armor is designed to look like the deutzia scabra, a Japanese flowering plant, with black lacquer-painted large sleeves with proper flaps. The family crest is seen on the body of the suit, and the metal fittings are of Arabesque pattern carvings. The helmet consists of black lacquered metal reinforced by 58 layers of iron plates fastened together. The arms and knees are also made of similar black lacquered iron.

To see the samurai suit and other items in the Nixon collection in person, contact the Bonnie Bell Wardman Library at (562) 907-4247 to make an appointment.

SOCIETIES FLOURISHING IN THE SPRING

After a months-long process, Whittier College societies welcomed 70 new members in spring 2019.

The final weeks of recruitment—known as New Member Education (NME)—is a time where candidates learn the values and traditions of their particular society and begin building the bonds of sister- and brotherhood with fellow members. For many, the friendships formed during this time become life-long relationships.

To ensure a successful NME process, Whittier society members and the Office of Student Engagement met various times throughout the year to discuss how to best meet the needs of prospective new members while keeping society traditions alive and creating a memorable NME experience. This process involved alumni-focused trainings, which sought to educate society alumni advisors and participants on College policies. The Inter-Society Council (ISC) played a significant role in the decision-making process on these policies and actively worked to include active society members in the process. NME concluded with a debrief and survey of new members, seeking to determine what worked and what didn't. The results of the survey will be used to make policies in the future.

"I feel as though the new administration has attentively listened to the needs of students and alumni," said ISC President Kelsey Sherman '20. "After New Member Education happened, they met with the societies, student leaders, and alumni so they could ensure that the 2020 guidelines were made to better fit everyone's process. I truly appreciate the work they've done this year and I know it can only get better next year!"



Athenians



Franklins



Ionians



Lancers



Metaphonians



Orthogonians



Palmers



Penns



Sachsens



Thaliens



SHINING A LIGHT ON PRISON REFORM THROUGH ART

A group of artists, historians, activists, educators, and participants directly affected by incarceration came together for a unique conference that focused on how art and art-related programs can have a positive impact on prison reform.

Associate Professor of Art History Kate Palmer Albers participated as a respondent and contributed an essay to the forthcoming publication about the conference. Albers' research focuses on the ways photographic



images can create visibility for marginalized communities and create avenues to alter prevailing historical narratives.

"I was heartened to see the tremendous work underway by an impressive range of participants seeking to bring more humane conditions to prisons; awareness of deep and complex structural changes of these issues; and, ultimately, changes in the way mass incarceration is handled in this country," said Albers. "I was so impressed with the artists and the artwork around which the conference was organized."

The three-day symposium, *Envisioning the Role of Arts in Criminal Justice Reform Conference*, was

held jointly at the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University. Both institutions hosted art exhibitions by various artists that specifically addressed this issue.

Albers teaches history and theory of photography, visual culture, new media, and contemporary art. She is the author of *Uncertain Histories: Accumulation, Inaccessibility, and Doubt in Contemporary Photography* and co-editor of *Before-and-After Photography: Histories and Contexts*. Her current research focuses on the role of ephemerality throughout the history of photography.

Seeing Shakespeare Through a Modern Lens

From junior high through college, students in the U.S. are regularly tasked with reading, dissecting, and understanding the various works of William Shakespeare.

As a means to help students truly connect with Shakespeare, Professor of English Jonathan Burton developed a unique idea that uses digital media to teach students how to examine the Bard's work through a contemporary lens.



The Qualities of Mercy Project, Burton's brainchild, involves 14 college and university classes from across the country, with each producing a short video based on a specific portion of *The Merchant of Venice*. Burton's Shakespeare in American Life class was responsible for Act 1, Scene 2 of the play.

The 14 videos have been sequenced into a YouTube playlist so that a viewer can go through the play witnessing the various ways in which students in distinct cultural and geographical locations render *The Merchant of Venice* and relate it to the particular concerns of their own communities.

Burton created the project with the hopes that the students see themselves as "makers of meaning."

"The project gives students the opportunity to think about what they want from the play and can make Shakespeare their own," said Burton.

Institutions participating in the project include Whittier College, Amherst College, Spelman College, Harvey Mudd College, and the University of Texas, El Paso, among others.

Burton also recently published a piece on culturally sustaining Shakespeare pedagogy in the *English Journal* and a chapter on race in *A Cultural History of Western Empires in the Renaissance*.

SEE MORE ON WHITTIER.EDU/MOREROCK.



“DOC” McBRIDE: CHANGING LIVES FOR 50 YEARS

Walking into Professor of Political Science Mike McBride's office, you are instantly surrounded by gifts and memorabilia he has accumulated over the years. From Russian nesting dolls, to a fantasy baseball league trophy, and a wall-to-wall shelf overflowing with hundreds of books, every item has a story.

Over his five decades at Whittier, McBride—affectionally called Doc by his students—has also gathered a cadre of devoted students and alumni. While reluctant to talk too much about himself, once you get him going, Doc will proudly list off the names of his many accomplished former students.

McBride always knew he wanted to teach. He taught undergraduate students while earning his Ph.D. at Purdue University, and upon receiving his degree, was hired by Whittier College to teach Russian politics. Over the last 50 years, he's taught 40 different courses.

His favorite one is From Russia with Feeling—a true Whittier course that weaves together Russian history, culture, literature, and politics through traditional lectures and readings along with films and games. As part of the class, McBride recreated the purge trials—1930s Soviet show trials that targeted dissidents. He fondly recalls seeing his students' faces when they realized he was going to “get them” for a crime they didn't know they had committed by associating with the “arch-villain Michael McBride.”

But perhaps McBride's most significant work revolves around the United Nations. Since 1970, he has led Whittier's Model United Nations (MUN) program. Most recently he took 27 students to Burlingame, California, for the 69th annual Model U.N. of the Far West conference. Next April, Whittier will host the conference for the ninth time since 1994, and many alumni will return to participate in what will be McBride's 50th MUN conference.

“The Model U.N. has become sort of a big love of mine and it's the place where I probably have the best relationships with our alumni,” said McBride. “Many of these students have moved into leadership positions and are making a difference in the world—and ultimately that is what our teaching at Whittier is all about.”

Several Whittier students have served on the Model U.N. Corporate Board including Michelle Cervantes '88 (now working with the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Yasmin Jamshed '04 (now with UNICEF), Erin Clancy '06 (now with the U.S. mission to the U.N.), and Caroline Cox '10 who will become President of the Board in 2020. McBride has served on the Board as Secretariat Advisor since 1993. McBride has also served as a consultant for the office of the UNHCR since 1993 and served for several years on the Secretariat at UNHCR's annual Executive Committee Session.

McBride's contributions to the U.N. and Model U.N. have solidified Whittier's place among these organizations and created a pipeline of candidates for internships and full-time positions with the U.N. in New York and Geneva.

In addition to his work with MUN, McBride was director of study abroad for 25 years—from 1980 through 2005—and served as chair of the faculty eight different times. In fact, one of his proudest moments came when serving as faculty chair, and he got to announce the name of his daughter, Jennifer, as the outstanding student in biology during the annual Honors Convocation.

Outside of his academic pursuits, McBride has served as advisor to the Lancers and the Palmers. Doc also has a well-developed passion for baseball. He now serves as one of the associate directors of Whittier's Institute for Baseball Studies (established under the leadership of Professor Emeritus Joe Price), and is a founding member of the long-standing Whittier fantasy baseball league. In 1979, he and former colleagues Bob Giomo and Warren Hanson were approached by a group of students who were interested in starting a softball team at Whittier. McBride was on board. He believed women deserved a chance to play at the college level and the fact that he and his wife Gail, to whom he's now been married over 50 years, had two young daughters at the time also played a significant role in his decision.

“We've had over 270 players over the 40 years of the softball program,” said McBride, who is currently an assistant coach. “A good percentage of them have gone on to coach themselves, at high school, college, or with children's teams. Seeing them develop and help others along the way is probably the most rewarding thing of all.”

With the softball team winning the All-SCIAC championship this spring and the 50th anniversary of the Whittier Model U.N. approaching next year, McBride has no plans to slow down. He looks forward to teaching more Poets and helping them achieve their goals.

poets **CAMPAIGN**





Photos by Tony Leon/Action West Photography

INDIVIDUAL HONORS FOR THE PURPLE & GOLD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Kenyatta Louder '20 was named Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Defensive Athlete of the Week twice during this year's basketball season, and was named to the All-SCIAC second team. Teammates **Nick Potthoff '20** and **Conner Longmire '19**, also received this honor later in the season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cali Cubel '20 was named SCIAC Athlete of the Week and All-SCIAC.

MEN'S/WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Taylor Beckwith '20 and **Kajal Vitha '18** were named All-SCIAC for the second year in a row—second team and first team respectively. Beckwith and Vitha, along with **Ciara Clark '18** and **Kamryn Marie Garcia '21**, were named SCIAC All-Academic.

FOOTBALL

Cooper Allen '21 was named the SCIAC Special Teams Athlete of the Week. Teammate **Brian Phelan '19** was named SCIAC Football Offensive Athlete of the Week and teammate **Alex Retana '22** was named the SCIAC Newcomer of the Year. Phelan, along with two other teammates **Nicolas Markarian '19** and **Andrew Rosales '19**, were all named to the All West Region team. Markarian and Phelan were also named to the 2019 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society.

MEN'S SOCCER

Parker McDonald '20 was named to the 2nd All-SCIAC team for the first time in his career.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Vanessa Martinez '22 was named SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Week and All-SCIAC.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Megan Thai '22 qualified for the NCAA Division III Championship and teammate **Becca Ayers '19** was named SCIAC Athlete of the Week.

MEN'S WATER POLO

Murat Ersoz '20 was named SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Week three times and teammates **Hans Zdolsek '21** and **Carlos Heredia '21** were named SCIAC Offensive Athletes of the Week. **Eric Borunda '22** was named SCIAC Newcomer of the Year. Ersoz, Zdolsek, and Borunda were all named All-SCIAC.

Teammates **Sawyer Bellville '20** and **Anastacia Gonzalez '19** were named SCIAC Athlete of the Week.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Makenzie Thieme '19 was named SCIAC Athlete of the Week twice and All-SCIAC.



IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS LEARNED ON THE FIELD

Some might see adversity as a barrier or a set of hurdles that make life difficult. For Miles Moscato '22, adversity is a gift and something he's been thankful for since he was a child.

Moscato was born with only one arm but this has not slowed him down one bit. He is currently a member of the Poet men's lacrosse team. When he's on the field playing with his teammates, he's focused on the game and giving it his all. But Moscato, a philosophy major, sees lacrosse as more than just a sport.

"Playing lacrosse teaches you a lot about life," said Moscato. "It's a sport in which everyone on the team needs to be on board for it to work. If one person isn't doing their job, everything else falls apart. But that also means that everybody gets an equal amount of responsibility."

Moscato began playing lacrosse in the third grade. Enjoying the game, he eventually began taking it more seriously and started playing for high-end sports clubs on a competitive level in Portland, Oregon. The more he played, the more he learned to use his disability as an advantage on the field. Upon the advice of family members, he started watching YouTube videos of Canadian lacrosse players—they mostly use one hand when playing. He found inspiration from these players and was able to use their techniques himself.

"The way I hold my stick and throw the ball is a lot different than a lot of other players and it's a lot more core rotation than arms," he explains. "What I lack in torque, I make up for in speed and release. Also, other teams really don't know how to play me and I know exactly where they're going to come from."

Head Lacrosse Coach Nicholas Marks, who recruited Moscato to play for Whittier, was impressed with his talents on the field.

"[Moscato] is a truly special player, and it has nothing to do with the challenge he faces everyday while doing it. He has one of the hardest and most accurate shots on the team combined with a very high level of athleticism," said Marks. "He was able to turn his supposed disadvantage into a literal advantage. In the time it takes two arms to throw or shoot a lacrosse ball it only takes [Moscato] the time of one arm."

Moscato also draws inspiration from the origins of the game. The original version of lacrosse was played by Native Americans.

"Coach Marks talks a lot about the spirituality of lacrosse and we have a lot of respect for the medicine game," said Moscato.

Marks also encourages his players to be good teammates and stay focused on their academics. "The coaches are very invested in who we are as people and players," said Moscato. "It's nice to know they actually care about us and how we end up in life."

Looking ahead, Moscato is excited to continue playing at Whittier for the next three years and focusing on his academics. His favorite course this past semester was Early Chinese Philosophy taught by Professor of Philosophy Paul Kjellberg. Moscato enjoys the way Kjellberg is able to blend knowledge of the language, history, and the philosophy of the text to find its meaning—something Moscato is also good at.

He's found meaning in his own challenges and has turned what some might see as a disadvantage into an advantage. "Once you get good at attacking adversity and not letting it hit you, it's like a ground ball in lacrosse—you have to pop someone in the hip before you get hit so you can get the edge on the ball. You have to learn to tackle it head on and see it as an opportunity to grow and get better," said Moscato.



NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE *PURPLE & GOLD*

LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF THE NCAA DIVISION III

Earlier this year, Poet lacrosse player Jordan McGowan '20 found himself rubbing elbows with NFL players, athletic directors, and even NCAA President Mark Emmert during the four-day annual NCAA Convention in Orlando, Florida. McGowan attended the event as part of the Division III Student Immersion Program held in conjunction with the conference.

Created in 2015, the program brings 40 students of color to the NCAA Convention, all expenses paid, and exposes them to the division, its members, and its government processes. The overall goal is to build a pipeline of talented candidates of color, with an interest in Division III coaching and/or administration, in an effort to ultimately diversify the division.

For McGowan, a kinesiology major who hopes to pursue graduate work in sports administration, attending the convention was a valuable learning and networking opportunity. "I was able to create new connections with professionals that have a great amount of experience working in athletics," he said. "It opened many new doors of opportunity for me in regards to careers in sports administration."

Due to his personal experience in athletics, McGowan knows the importance of promoting equity and inclusion in his chosen field.

Being an African American student-athlete participating in a sport that is predominantly white has allowed me to develop a certain respect toward diversity in all sports," said McGowan. "It helps grow the game in participation and appreciation toward whatever sport you may be playing, and teaches others to be advocates of diversity in sports."

In addition to the immersion program, McGowan is involved with the Poet Student Athlete Leadership Academy and is a mentor with Harlem Lacrosse, a program that connects players with at-risk youth living in South Los Angeles, Compton, and Inglewood.

Rock Carter '89 has been named director of athletics and special assistant to the president at Whittier College. Carter has been a part of the athletics leadership team for more than two decades – serving as the head men's basketball coach for 22 years and as senior associate director of athletics since 2006.

Carter had been serving as acting athletics director since August 2018, after the departure of long-time director Rob Coleman.

"I am very proud of the work Rock has done during this interim period and am particularly impressed with the demonstrated improvements in the academic performance and retention of our student-athletes," said President Linda Oubré.

During this time, Carter implemented several initiatives focused on improving the student-athlete experience. A former adjunct faculty member, he understands the importance of connecting the athletics staff with faculty and has worked to improve this relationship and instill a culture conducive to student success.



Under Carter's leadership and in collaboration with the athletics staff, student grade point averages have improved for all of Whittier's teams and the number of student-athletes on academic probation has declined significantly.

Previously, Carter served as the interim director of athletics from 2004-2005. He spent 13 years as an instructor with the Department of Kinesiology, teaching courses in sports management, physical education, and fitness and wellness. He has also served on a number of College, SCIAC, and NCAA committees.

At Whittier, Carter earned his B.A. in physical education and an M.A. in education administration. As an undergraduate, he played two seasons with the Poet men's basketball team. He currently resides in Whittier with his wife Megan, daughter Caroline, and son Jacob '14, a recent graduate of the College.

TURNING ACTIVISM TO SCHOLARSHIP

Whittier College offers students an array of unique learning opportunities, many of which encourage students to step outside of the classroom to see how theories learned behind a desk can take form in the outside world. Exploring different academic fields, Professor of Sociology Becky Overmyer-Velazquez and Professor of Business Administration Kristen Smirnov have taken their respective students into Los Angeles—using it as a learning laboratory—to investigate topics ranging from pollution and environmental health to consumer behavior and retail development. Tapping into their own personal and academic passions, these educators bring to life their curricula affording students an unforgettable immersive experience.

For nearly 15 years, Professor Becky Overmyer-Velazquez has devoted her time outside Whittier College to activism in environmental justice. As a member of the Clean Air Coalition of North Whittier and Avocado Heights, she mobilized alongside her neighbors to stop a rail yard project that would have served to transport waste from Whittier to the desert. In this fight, Overmyer-Velazquez became more well-versed in environmental policy and law than she had ever been and was invited to take the helm of the grassroots organization. Now fully immersed in the fight for environmental justice, she faced the need to balance her responsibilities as a professor and her civic duty as an activist.

"I realized, as I became much more of an activist and organizer, that I also just didn't have time for the kind of traditional scholarship of discovery that we're expected to do here," said Overmyer-Velazquez. "All of my scholarship time was devoted to organizing in my community and to learning about the very complicated issues that are involved in environmental justice."

And then it dawned on her.

"This is what I do. This is my scholarship." In carrying out her activism and community outreach and engagement work, Overmyer-Velazquez was effectively disseminating knowledge to an audience. This, she explains, is the goal of any type of scholarship – whether it be conventional (peer reviewed and published by academic presses) or in the realm of public sociology (work that is evaluated based on its relevance to its public and the extent to which it promotes public dialogue, according to Overmyer-Velazquez).

Over time, Overmyer-Velazquez began to introduce issues of environmental justice into her courses through class projects—just enough to pique curiosity and awareness. The idea of creating a full course on the subject didn't seem feasible, however, until recently, when the anthropology and sociology department found itself in need of a new JanTerm course.

"I rooted it in a course that my good friend Les Howard taught—a workshop in urban studies which explored landscapes and got students to understand the way cities and spaces are organized politically and socially."

According to Overmyer-Velazquez, the course, Toxic Tours: Environmental Justice in Southern California, focuses on raising awareness about environmental issues, understanding their complexities, and sparking civic engagement. To achieve that, Overmyer-Velazquez led students on excursions to some of Los Angeles' most polluted communities to witness firsthand the scale of the problem and to speak to community members on the front lines.

Students ventured to Resurrection Church in Boyle Heights to learn from community members who organized to shutter the Exide Batteries recycling facility in nearby Vernon. They also visited Hacienda Heights where residents continue a similar battle with another battery recycling plant. And, they followed the route that imported goods make on their way to the rest of the country from the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, through the 710 Freeway, to the immense rail yards in the City of Commerce.

This exposure, however, often leads to more questions than answers. "That's the tough part of environmental justice—balancing both sides," says Overmyer-Velazquez. "(Students) are able to appreciate the basic conflict that is inherent in so much of the environmental justice movement—that is, trying to figure out how to live in an industrialized society that depends on the production, sale, and purchase of goods but also be concerned about the public health impacts of that very economy."

And she believes that introducing these topics early in a student's college career can have a lasting impact, not just on a student's course of study but on the College's surrounding communities. "Courses like this can be a springboard for all kinds of research projects," she says, offering one group's experience in the course as an example.



the **ROCK** features

While creating a pollution profile of nearby Santa Fe Springs, Overmyer-Velazquez's students learned about a well-documented toxic waste site located directly next to a school. When they visited the site and interviewed neighbors, a pattern of cancer and illness emerged. The neighbors, the students recounted, were suspicious about the site's impact on their health but had no way to verify it and asked the students if they could help them investigate further.

Stunned by their discovery and eager to be of service, the group considered taking on the project but quickly realized that it would be impossible to complete within the course's time constraints.

"These were first-year students," explains Overmyer-Velazquez. "And now they have three years to really explore this site further. It would be fantastic if we were set up in a way that gave faculty and students the space to more deeply pursue the things they explore in a course. And, in cases like this one, it would help our neighbors as well."

Community is one thing Overmyer-Velazquez was conscious of when designing the course. With approximately half of Whittier's students coming from the local area, issues discussed in courses that focus on the Southern California region are very personal to them. In turn, students begin to raise awareness among their friends and families. And this, she says, is the intent of the course.

"I think it's transformative. The students are aware now that without community organizing, without neighbors knowing each other, without neighbors mobilizing together, and putting pressure on politicians and regulatory agencies, none of this work would get done."



FROM THE SYLLABUS:

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
Our Stolen Future by Theo Colborn,
 Dianne Dumanoski,
 and John Peterson Myers



“I THINK IT’S TRANSFORMATIVE. THE STUDENTS ARE AWARE NOW THAT WITHOUT COMMUNITY ORGANIZING, WITHOUT NEIGHBORS KNOWING EACH OTHER, WITHOUT NEIGHBORS MOBILIZING TOGETHER, AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON POLITICIANS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES, NONE OF THIS WORK WOULD GET DONE.”

Professor of Sociology
Becky Overmyer-Velazquez



MARKETING IS NOT A BAD WORD

Professor of Marketing Kristen Smirnov still remembers the first day of her first undergraduate marketing class. “Welcome to the study of how to manipulate people,” announced the professor. From that moment on, says Smirnov, “I was primed to think of marketing as an inherently negative element of business.”

But that sentiment, and the profit-driven approach to marketing she encountered in business school, never sat well with her. So, when she was given her first teaching assignment as a doctoral student, she chose to redefine marketing for her students. That has become the signature of Smirnov’s courses, especially her Consumer Behavior JanTerm course.

The course, Smirnov explains, requires that students consider complex questions and understand the multiple disciplines that “can be intersecting to influence consumer decisions such as social psychology, cognitive psychology, and sociology.” To help her students observe these theories at play, she leads them on field trips across Los Angeles to the Getty Museum, TCL Chinese Theatre, Blizzard Entertainment, and the adjacent but wildly different shopping meccas, The Grove and Farmers Market.

As they move through these spaces, Smirnov instructs students to observe consumers, study the spaces, and assess the relationship between the two. Marketing, after all, requires that a company understand its own strengths, its customers’ needs, and that it find a strategy to bring those two together.

A responsible business person, Smirnov notes, will always understand and prioritize a customer’s values and motivations and work towards fulfilling those needs instead of creating false wants. “I want my students to ask what motivates someone to be interested in art? How do you figure out the underlying motivations for someone considering a product category?” She also asks students to pay close attention to demographics and to consider populations that are often overlooked as consumers.

In the end, Smirnov hopes that her course makes “students better, more responsible business people in the future and consumers with a better defense against manipulation in the present.”

Leading Cultural Change and Innovation on the Poet Campus

In 1960s San Fernando Valley, a 5-year-old Linda Oubré is pulled out of her mostly White elementary classroom to sit in an office with a stranger, a "nice woman," who asked her to draw pictures, shapes, and numbers, play with blocks, and read words on cards. Everything seemed easy and kind of fun to the kindergartener. Unbeknownst to her, this would be the beginning of a journey that would lead her to attend UCLA, graduate from Harvard Business School with an MBA, earn a doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, become a successful business woman and educator, and ultimately become the 15th President of Whittier College.



"I went home that day and told my mother that I spent all day in the office playing. What I didn't know, until decades later, was that my mother had stormed to school the next day, confronted the principal, and demanded to know 'Why was Linda playing in the office all day?' After telling my mother that I had been 'tested,' the principal said something like: 'We know you're just a Negro woman, but you need to know that one day, Linda is going to college, and you need to make sure you expose her to everything you can to ensure that she can fulfill this great opportunity to get an education.'"

Words that would have intimidated many only served to strengthen Marilyn Solomon's resolve to help her daughter live up to her full potential, even if it meant doing it within limited means.

"She always made sure that we went to the book mobile and had our stack of books for the week," said Oubré. "I remember that green bus, that seemed huge to me at the time, that would come once a week."

Perhaps just as importantly for Oubré and her siblings, Solomon made the brave decision to leave her abusive husband and raise her children on her own. Through her example, Solomon taught her daughter that practical skills—like hard work—would help her get ahead.

Later, as a divorced, single mother of five, Solomon landed a weekly television talk show on KCOP-TV in Los Angeles. She went on to earn five

Emmy Awards as an executive producer for several television programs including *Romper Room*. She also went back to school, graduated from high school and eventually earned a B.A. and an MBA from Pepperdine University. Solomon was also very active in the community, having served on several city commissions for former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

Despite her mother's ultimate success and her young age when her parents divorced, the abuse experienced in her home left an indelible mark on Oubré's life.

"School was an escape for me," said Oubré. "Also, being the middle of five kids, it was the way that I got attention. School was my thing."

It was a strategy that worked in her favor. Oubré would go on to excel in school, always finding advocates and mentors who recognized and fostered that special spark in her.

"My student government teacher was Mrs. Benjamin; I still remember her name. She also became my history teacher. She was just awesome. Awesome in the classroom, but also because she really identified me as someone who she was going to take along. She selected me and a boy, I don't remember his name, and took us to this college day at Occidental College. That was really the first time I remember being exposed to college."

Oubré's mother eventually remarried and the family moved to Los Angeles, where Oubré attended Hollywood High School. There, she took honors and advanced placement courses and thrived in an environment that was incredibly diverse. During her senior year, on her birthday, Oubré was accepted into UCLA, and would become the first of her siblings to attend college.



(Above) Oubré gave remarks during the student-organized Poet Inauguration Festival. (Right) Inauguration week events also included a tour of Black L.A. with a visit to the California African American Museum and a civil rights tour with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Pictured: Oubré and Marianella Pérez '22





Although she was still living at home, UCLA was a whole new world for her.

"In the fall of 1976, UCLA still had this air of activism," she said. "Especially since the Black student movement was still very fresh. A lot of those student activists were now in grad school and leading undergraduates by example."

She yearned to be a part of this environment. "If you look at my high school yearbook, I'm the type of student who was on every page. From the day I walked on to the UCLA campus, I decided to be involved."

Oubré would eventually lead the student media council which oversaw all the affinity papers, the yearbook, the radio station, and the *Daily Bruin*—which was, at the time, the third largest daily in the city of L.A.

As Oubré tells it, she first thought of majoring in English and pursuing a career in journalism, "But my mom said, 'No. You need to get a job, so you need to do economics and business.'"

"Luckily, I really enjoyed economics and my role in student media was really that of a CEO. So, I realized that I had an inkling for business," said Oubré. "And then Harvard came to campus my sophomore year and began recruiting me."

At the same time, Oubré was being courted by the UCLA business school and she got involved with the Black Business Society there. One of her early mentors, a Stanford-educated UCLA business professor, encouraged her to go anywhere but Harvard. In fact, Harvard's admission came with a two-year gap, where she would have to find a job in the corporate sector before beginning her graduate studies.

"I hadn't interviewed for jobs and it was a week before my graduation," recalls Oubré. "All my mentors and my parents said 'go to UCLA.' There was only one person who told me go to Harvard Business School, and it was the guy I was dating at the time, and his name was Nate Oubré. He was a year behind me at UCLA."

GO EAST

While Nate's support was instrumental, Oubré, a natural risk taker, decided to take a chance on Harvard. "I like doing things that interest and challenge me and I'm not afraid to try things," adds Oubré.

After two years of working in Security Pacific Bank's manager training program, Oubré and her now-husband, Nate, headed to Harvard. Nate had been admitted to the MBA program a year after Oubré.

To say Harvard was a culture shock is an understatement. Used to the diverse environment of Los Angeles, Oubré found herself part of the 1% of students of color enrolled in the MBA program.

"Being from L.A. was strange. Being a woman of color was strange. Everything about it was just different. And then half your grade is class participation—which is very subjective," said Oubré. In addition, grading was based on a strict curve where the bottom 10% of the class was asked to leave the program. "Even if everyone in the class got a 90 or up, the bottom 10% would fail."

"School was an escape for me," said Oubré. "Also, being the middle of five kids, it was the way that I got attention. School was my thing."

But Oubré didn't move across the country to fail. As she often did, she tapped into her background and looked to the individuals that inspired courage—her mother, as well as her maternal grandparents, who were well-known union and civil rights activists in Detroit, Michigan.

Her hard work paid off. "I had this tough marketing professor, and I was the first African American woman he ever passed. I'm the first one ever to get a 'satisfactory' from him. And I probably deserved an 'excellent,'" said Oubré.

DEFINING SUCCESS

Just as she did at Harvard, Oubré often found herself as the sole woman of color in a variety of office spaces and boardrooms. So much so, that she has become comfortable with her role as a trailblazer who uses her influence to create more opportunities for young people of color and first-generation college students like herself.

And as a woman coming up in the age of "you can have it all," Oubré has a practical response: "You just have to take it step by step." While never losing sight of her professional goals, Oubré acknowledges to having put her family first.

"When the kids were younger, I definitely made career decisions based on being a mom." The family also moved three times for Nate's career. For Oubré it was about being able to enjoy the fruits of her labor with her family, while building a steady career.

Her husband Nate is a senior executive at Kaiser Permanente, their son Nathan is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and works for a start-up based in Los Angeles, and son Alexander works in the music industry and is a recent graduate of Loyola Marymount University.


"It's a give and take. You have to trust that things will work out if you're flexible and you're okay with taking a chance." Over the course of her career, Oubré has built a uniquely well-rounded and impressive resume. She has developed more than 30 businesses, created a revenue plan for LATimes.com, and managed acquisitions and startups for the Walt Disney Company. She eventually served as president and CEO of LSO Ventures, a venture investment consulting firm, and was one of the founders and president of BriteSmile, a company that she took public on NASDAQ.

In addition to her leadership roles as dean of the College of Business at San Francisco State University and executive director of corporate relations and business development for the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis, she has taught at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, and San Diego State University.

In between all of this, she earned an Ed.D. in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

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READY FOR INNOVATION

Always one to put herself out there and take calculated risks, each new venture in business and education paid off and led to the next success. Now, she's bringing that same brave innovative spirit to Whittier.

At her Inauguration, Oubré spoke about her history, her relentless entrepreneurial spirit, and how they will inform her leadership as president of the institution.

"I represent the face of the future of higher education, but I also resemble today's reality, and opportunity for Whittier," said Oubré.

"To shape the future in a way that provides opportunity for our success requires innovation. Innovation forces us to get out of automatic and think and do things differently. Innovation requires a vision of what is possible."

Innovation, equity, and inclusion have become the focus of Oubré's administration. In her first year at Whittier, Oubré has already challenged the campus community to take a serious look at issues on inclusivity and equity and what it means for the future of the College.

"I have to say, looking back a year, I think the culture's changed awfully fast. We're having different sorts of conversations," she said. "We're talking in more innovative, creative ways. And I know that that's based on just the different voices in the room. I think this College really needed someone who looks like me to walk in the room."

Change also involves aligning the College's mission with the student population Whittier currently serves. "I think it's a beautiful opportunity for us, and it makes us different."

"I HAVE TO SAY, LOOKING BACK A YEAR, I THINK THE CULTURE'S CHANGED AWFULLY FAST. WE'RE HAVING DIFFERENT SORTS OF CONVERSATIONS. WE'RE TALKING IN MORE INNOVATIVE, CREATIVE WAYS. AND I KNOW THAT THAT'S BASED ON JUST THE DIFFERENT VOICES IN THE ROOM. I THINK THIS COLLEGE REALLY NEEDED SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME TO WALK IN THE ROOM."

President Linda Oubré





ALL IN THE FAMILY: President Linda Oubré and her extended family.



FIRST FAMILY: Nathan Oubré and Audia Reggie with daughter Nyma, Alexander Oubré, President Oubré, Nate Oubré, Marilyn F. Solomon, and Carolyn Oubré.



BEHIND THE STAGE: Nate and Alex Oubré



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER: President Oubré and Marilyn F. Solomon

THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT LINDA OUBRÉ

A Model for the Nation, Innovating for the World

Following a processional of faculty, staff, alumni, and invited guests, the Inauguration of Whittier College's 15th President began with an acknowledgement of the land that the College occupies and that once was inhabited by the Tongva people. This acknowledgment of history, while looking toward the future, was an apropos way to begin the installation ceremony of President Linda Oubré, the first woman of color to lead the College.

Joined on stage by her mother, Marilyn F. Solomon; her husband, Nate Oubré; and her two sons, Nathan and Alex, Oubré listened as colleagues and mentors gave words of congratulations and counsel as she embarked on this new journey. Speakers included Alex J. Norman, professor emeritus of social welfare, UCLA; Lowell Haines, president of Taylor University; and Sue Rosser, special advisor for research development and external partnerships, California State University System. In honor of her daughter, Solomon read a poem written by the College's namesake, John Greenleaf Whittier.

Following a musical performance by student cast members of the theatre department's spring production of *Pippin*, Oubré was welcomed by President of the Associated Students of Whittier College Detrick Manning '19, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and C. Wright Mills Endowed Chair in Sociology sal johnston, College Trustee and president and CEO of Fairplex Miguel Santana, and United States Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez.



Flanked by her two sons and husband, Oubré stood as the Chair of the Board of Trustees Jim Brown '71 placed the Chain of Presidential Office—bearing the College seal—on her shoulders, officially welcoming her as the fifteenth president of Whittier College.



"Dr. Linda S. Oubré, the Board of Trustees has selected you as President of Whittier College. Yours will be the high privilege and responsibility of leading Whittier to the fulfillment of its great promise for years to come," said Chair of the Board of Trustees Jim M. Brown '71. "Much of what this College stands for, the values we hold dear, and the principles you will strive to uphold—are boldly declared upon Whittier's seal: *Amor Eruditionis, Lux, Poesis, Veritas, and Pax.*"

After the installation ceremony, Oubré took to the podium to address the cheering crowd.

"I would be lying if I told you exactly what our future will look like," said Oubré. "That being said, I am confident that Whittier College is uniquely positioned to create a sustainable future for our campus and our students. We will create a culture of innovation and we will become a thriving institution where all students will leave equipped to serve an always-changing region, state, country, and world. At this place, and at this time, just by walking into the room and being who I am, I represent the change that is already here. Through our collective creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, and our ability to execute on our vision, we will continue to be a model for the nation as we innovate for the world."

Following a performance of the school song, *Friends Forever*, Oubré and the stage party walked off stage to a song from her personally curated processional playlist—*My Girl*.



Detrick Manning '19, President,
Associated Students of Whittier College



Linda Sánchez, United States
Congresswoman, 38th District

“BEING A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE, PRESIDENT OUBRÉ CAN EMPATHIZE WITH THE STRUGGLES THAT MANY OF THE STUDENTS HERE ON CAMPUS DEAL WITH, AS SHE DEALT WITH THEM HERSELF.

“PRESIDENT OUBRÉ IS AN EXAMPLE TO SO MANY STUDENTS HERE OF WHAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US CAN BECOME: EDUCATED, AMBITIOUS, AND IMPACTFUL LEADERS.”

INNOVATION SHOWCASE

Immediately following the installation ceremony, guests headed to the Science & Learning Center (SLC) for a reception and Innovation Showcase. The event included a special performance by Professor of Music Danilo Lozano and his band, Cuba L.A.

Inside the SLC, people immersed themselves in works by Whittier students and faculty. From viewing mini documentaries highlighting unique learning opportunities, to exploring the dynamics of physical movement in the kinesiology lab, to tasting and learning about sustainable specialty coffee, the Innovation Showcase brought the liberal arts and sciences to life.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE AND SIMILAR INNOVATION PROJECTS AT WHITTIER.EDU/MOREROCK.

“PRESIDENT OUBRÉ, YOU HAVE BEEN QUITE THE HERO YOURSELF. YOU HAVE HELPED BLAZE A TRAIL FOR WOMEN, AND ESPECIALLY WOMEN OF COLOR, IN ACADEMIA.”



Marilyn F. Solomon, MBA

EXCERPT FROM *A SONG FOR THE TIME*, BY JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

*But ye, who still boast of hearts beating and warm,
Rise, from lake shore and oceans, like waves in a storm,
Come, throng round our banner in Liberty's name,
Like winds from your mountains, like prairies aflame!*

*Come forth all together! Come old and come young,
Freedom's vote in each hand, and her song on each tongue;
Truth naked is stronger than Falsehood in mail;
The Wrong cannot prosper, the Right cannot fail!*





1. Music professor Danilo Lozano and his band, Cuba L.A., performing during the Inauguration Reception and Innovation Showcase
2. Chair of Board of Trustees Jim Brown '71
3. Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania gather at Hartley House prior to the ceremony
4. Student volunteers Cole DiGrazia '21, Ivelis Colón '19, and Elizabeth Tovar Green '21
5. Detrick Manning '19, Cody Allman '14, Ann Bailleul '17, and Cherylin Blandford '16
6. Students in the Yao Yuan Sze Foundation Movement Laboratory during the Innovation Showcase
7. Penny (Carns) Fraumeni '68, Barbara (Brucher) Sentell '68, and Leda (Mintzer) Muller '88
8. Chiemi Suzuki (representing Bryn Mawr College), political science professor Sara Angevine, and psychology professor Amanda Lash
9. Broadoaks School staff Kathleen Pompey, Agnes Vasquez, and Kori Vartanian '92 pose with California State Senator Bob Archuleta
10. Guests at the Poet photo booth during the reception
11. Education professor Shannon M. Stanton Agbotse, theatre professor Gil Gonzalez, and chemistry professors Devin Imoto and Peter Peterson
12. Faculty gather to process for the inauguration ceremony
13. Theatre professor Brian Reed samples sustainable specialty coffee at the tasting session led by coffee expert Stephanie Alcala '15 during the Innovation Showcase
14. President and CEO of Fairplex and Trustee Miguel Santana '91

NEW PHILADELPHIANS

Philadelphians are generous individuals who have pledged a gift to their favorite cause at Whittier College in their will or living trust, as a beneficiary designation on a retirement account or life insurance policy, or through a gift annuity or charitable trust. These vital gifts build Whittier's future and are tremendously important to its continued success as a nationally recognized liberal arts institution.

The College is in the midst of a planned giving campaign called Poet Legacies, in which visionary donors have let their passions come alive by creating their charitable legacy at Whittier. In the past year, the College has gratefully welcomed a number of new Philadelphians (listed to the right) who have pledged their support to areas of campus that they treasure, such as the study abroad program, the Institute for Baseball Studies, named endowed scholarships, the choir, the ever-important Whittier Fund, and more. Have you ever thought about supporting your favorite area of campus through a bequest?

If you would like to learn more about planned giving opportunities with the College, please be in touch with Jessica Cobb '05 in the Office of Advancement at (562) 907-4299. We do respect the privacy of those who wish to remain anonymous.

Robert (Bobbi) Bruesch '65

Garrett '02 and Jessica (Stock) Cobb '05

Kathleen (Kingsbury) Dobrzycki '64

Dr. A. David Feinstein '68

Douglas S. Kotkin '90

Linda S. and Nathaniel L. Oubré, Jr.

Dori (Wells) Rodi-Shryock '64

Joseph L. and Bonnie L. (George) Price '89

E. A. Tenorio '74 and Susan T. Sato-Tenorio

William C. '73 and Patrice Ticknor

Anonymous (5)

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY: The College also wishes to recognize an additional six individuals, who each made a provision for Whittier in their will or trust which we learned about after their passing this year.

PHILADELPHIANS TRANSFORMING LIVES

For Rosa Lee Black Votteri '62, attending Whittier College was a life-changing experience that led her to a public health career with stops in San Francisco, New York, Senegal, and Central America.

She credits Whittier with giving her an understanding of how communities and cultures can collaborate to achieve social change. "Whittier also taught me how to recognize emerging social problems and develop innovative health education programs."

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Votteri boarded a Greyhound bus in 1958 as the first in her family to attend college. "My parents had no idea how college worked, and they were relieved when I was awarded a terrific scholarship," she said. Armed with a degree in sociology, Votteri then earned an M.S. in public health and social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and also served as a Peace Corps volunteer.



Though she lives in Sacramento, Whittier is never far from her mind. Votteri wants today's Poets to have the same transformative education she had received. Together with her husband, Mill, she has decided to establish an endowed scholarship.

"I looked at the world around me and did not want to wait for someone else to take action," Votteri says. "Mill and I decided to step up our involvement and do something with the resources we have. This is our way of assisting social change."

The couple has also made provisions to leave a gift for the College in their will, and Whittier is therefore proud to recognize them as members of the Philadelphian Society. Votteri encourages everyone to get involved in some way. "Even small contributions can make a big difference."



GRANT BRINGS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO THE ARTS AT WHITTIER

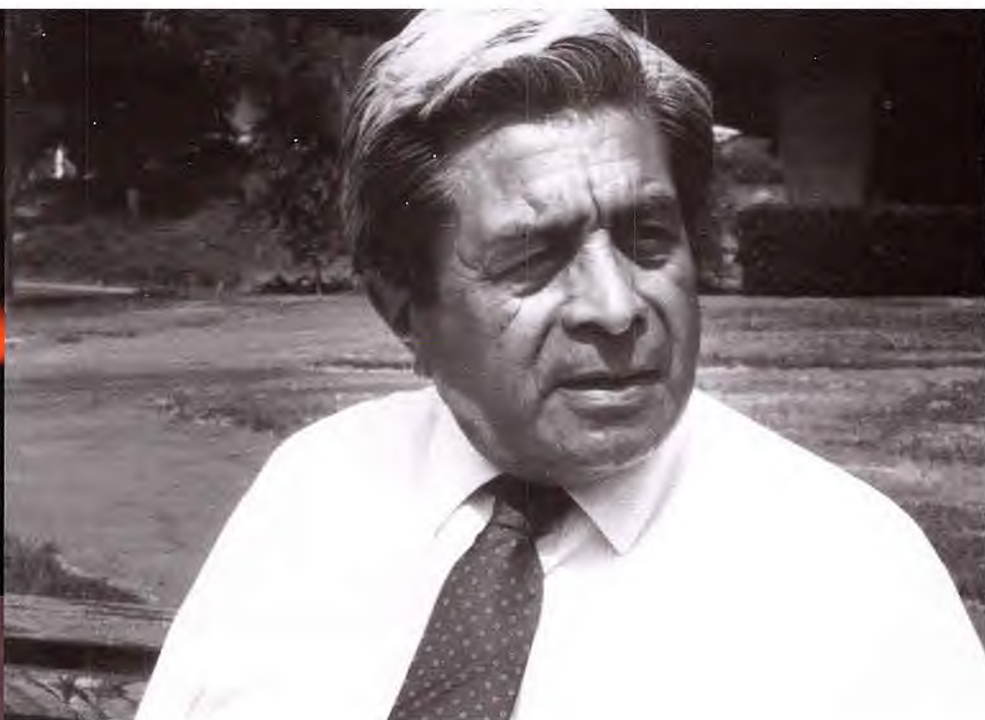
Whittier College has received a \$500,000 grant from the Sherman Fairchild Foundation's Arts and Technology Program. The award will support and enhance the College's arts departments and infuse digital technology throughout the arts curriculum.

With the help of this grant, faculty will develop media and performing arts pathways for students in three departments—art and visual studies, music, and theatre and communication arts, which includes the film studies minor. Students pursuing such a pathway will choose from a curated list of media and technology-focused courses that will fulfill college-wide requirements. Students will also be encouraged to combine arts disciplines within their majors and minors, providing a focused—and media-technology centered—journey through their four-year education at Whittier.

"We are grateful for this award because it will enable us to provide our students with unique opportunities to learn digital art technology skills within a liberal arts framework, which will equip them with the tools necessary to enter the workforce," said President Linda Oubré.

The grant also presents an opportunity for the College to purchase new technologically advanced equipment that will enhance participants' experience in the classroom. Students taking courses such as animation, film production, web design, and others will benefit from the modern equipment, making their learning opportunities more engaging and relevant to the modern workplace.

"As students utilize the new technologies in their arts courses, they will be better positioned to take on internships that will allow them to further develop their skills," said Associate Professor of Art Daniel Jauregui. "This is a first step toward a broader institutional commitment to increase our capacity to offer these resources that are critical to our students' career choices out of college."



Martin Ortiz '48 100th Celebration

November 2019 will mark the 100th anniversary of Martin Ortiz's birth.

Known as *El Jefe* to the Whittier community, Ortiz served the College for more than 40 years and founded the Center of Mexican American Affairs on campus in 1971. In 2004, Ortiz received an honorary doctorate from Whittier and the title of director emeritus of the Center of Mexican American Affairs, later renamed the Ortiz Programs in his honor.

The Martin Ortiz 100 Campaign celebrates his dedication to student success by aiming to raise \$100,000 to continue his transformative work with Latinx students and families. So far, more than \$73,000 has been received from 305 individual donors.

Efforts which donors can support include:

THE MARTIN ORTIZ ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1996 with gifts from Whittier alumni, friends, and foundations honoring Ortiz, the scholarship provides educational opportunities for high-achieving Latinx students each year, and continues *El Jefe*'s legacy in perpetuity.

ALIANZA DE LOS AMIGOS MARTIN ORTIZ FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship provides select students with an award to undertake a summer internship or research under the guidance of a Whittier faculty member. Ortiz Fellows will be able to take on opportunities that would be otherwise inaccessible due to financial concerns and obligations. The fellowship experience will also enhance the student's career and graduate school preparedness.

THE ORTIZ PROGRAMS

The Programs are a continuation of Ortiz's work with Latinx students and their families. The Programs provide academic and career resources, as well as financial aid guidance and overall support, primarily to first-generation Latinx students. In addition, the Programs serve as a liaison between Latinx students, parents, alumni, community organizations, and the College community.

The 2019 Tardeada, a celebration of Latinx culture held during Homecoming weekend, will commemorate Ortiz's 100th birthday. Everyone is invited to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT WHITTIER.EDU/MOREROCK.

GROCE FELLOWSHIP SUPPORTS CANCER RESEARCH

Jimena Ruiz '19 is the kind of person who asks questions, and that genuine curiosity changed the course of her life.

For most of her life, the biology major was convinced she was going to be a doctor. During her first year, she signed up for a science course with James Irvine Foundation Chair in Biological Sciences Sylvia Vetrone '99—and as the professor led the class through the complexities of living organisms, Ruiz was unafraid to raise her hand to question the material, seek clarification, and dig deeper. In the student's inquiry, Vetrone recognized the makings of a researcher.

At the end of the semester, Vetrone approached Ruiz with a question of her own: how about pursuing her curiosity further with research?

At first, Ruiz was hesitant; a lab wasn't what she had in mind. But with encouragement from both Vetrone, as well as her peers already involved in research, Ruiz said yes—and it changed the course of her academic career.

Rather than adopting a project from someone else, the idea was to pursue her own, personal experiment. Ruiz took inspiration from her interest in homeopathic medicine and decided to study the benefits of *essiac* tea. The brew is a blend of herbs: burdock root, rhubarb root, sheep sorrel, and slippery elm bark. Ruiz first tested whether it improves longevity by feeding different concentrations to microscopic worms, who were then exposed to oxidative stress.

"With *essiac*, they did live longer," Ruiz said. "It was really exciting. Just doing more research and everything, I got more excited and started leaning more towards that subject."



By her junior year, Ruiz expanded her investigation: experimenting with *essiac*'s cancer-fighting potential. By now, she was mostly her own, independent researcher; while working closely with Vetrone as a sophomore, the professor helped Ruiz build up her proficiency in the lab and self-assurance in her work. By the time Ruiz was testing *essiac*'s effects on prostate cancer and different types of leukemia and myelomas, she had grown so much as a scientist that she was confident enough to help her peers with similar projects, as well.

She was taking full ownership of her work, another quality Vetrone had recognized in her and knew would make her a good researcher.

As with the longevity tests, the anti-cancer tests proved out Ruiz's hypothesis. The cancer cells were dying.

Ruiz hopes to have the results published. In the meantime, her impressive work won her the Outstanding Research in Biology award at the 2019 Honors Convocation.

"She puts herself out there and she wants to grow, and she did," Vetrone said. "She took full advantage of her college experience to grow academically, professionally, and as a person."

The professor was more than a great mentor for Ruiz; she also connected her with a fellowship that afforded her the experiment resources she needed.

The summer between her junior and senior year, Ruiz applied to and won the **Barbara Ondrasik '57 and Dr. David E. Groce SURF Fellowship**, which helps sophomores and juniors engage in substantial academic research or a creative project, regardless of their major.

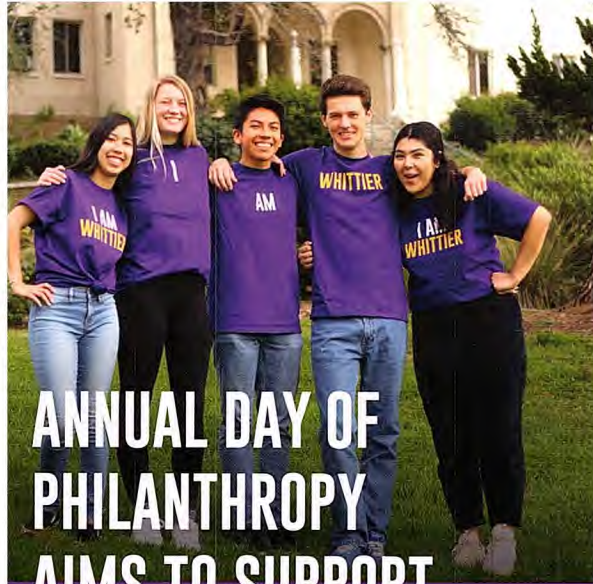
"A funny thing is I'm a Palmer, and Barbara Ondrasik, she's a Palmer alumna. So after I got accepted to the fellowship, she actually called me and we talked on the phone for 30-40 minutes about Palmer stuff and about my research, and I thought that was really great," Ruiz said.

After graduating, Ruiz plans to take a year to work and hone her phlebotomy skills before pursuing her master's degree and, eventually, Ph.D. in cancer research.

"It's really interesting how just being able to come to Whittier College and get exposed to all of these different experiences and opportunities makes you completely change your career path sometimes," she said.

"SHE PUTS HERSELF OUT THERE AND SHE WANTS TO GROW, AND SHE DID. SHE TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF HER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE TO GROW ACADEMICALLY, PROFESSIONALLY, AND AS A PERSON."

Sylvia Vetrone '99, James Irvine Foundation Chair in Biological Sciences



ANNUAL DAY OF PHILANTHROPY AIMS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Spurred on by the theme, “I am Whittier,” the Poet community set a new participation record for the College’s fourth annual Big Poet Give, with a total of 1,518 donors.

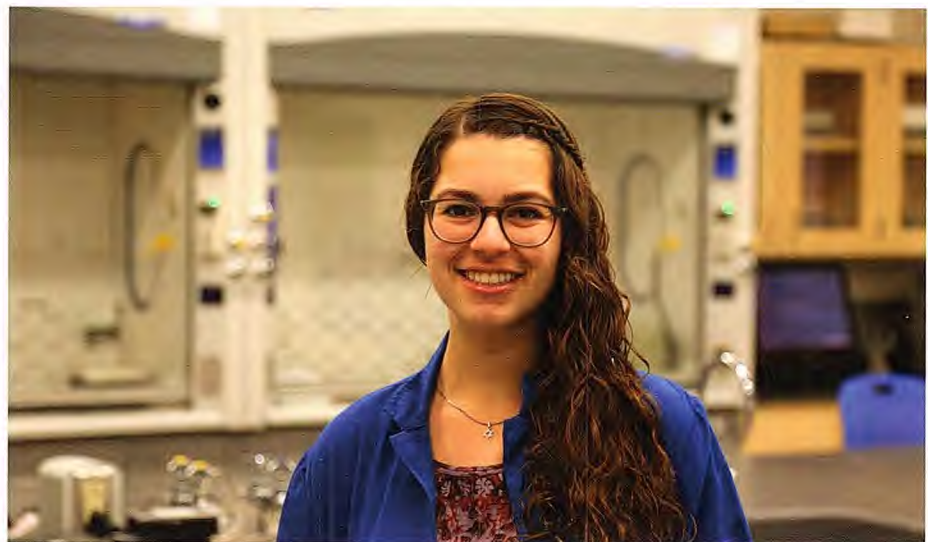
Eight matching challenges hosted throughout the day helped raise more than \$279,000 for the Whittier Fund, athletics, scholarships, and other areas around campus, surpassing last year’s dollar total. Young alumni—graduates of the last decade—also set a new participation record.

During a campus celebration, current students learned about philanthropy and wrote nearly 400 thank you notes to donors.

Giving Days are increasingly popular with non-profit organizations, especially in higher education. Whittier has been on the forefront of this trend for several years. Members of the Office of Advancement recently spoke about their successful strategies to an audience of peer colleges at the 2019 Meeting of the Minds Conference in Pomona, California.

“We highlighted our digital tactics that allow us to reach a global audience,” said Alex Popescu, director of annual giving. “We have to meet our donors where they are. This year we introduced Venmo as a giving option, which is a digital wallet that is popular particularly with our young audience. The results speak for themselves: 20% of our gifts came in via Venmo. Continuously innovating this campaign and others is a challenge our team accepts ever year.”

Davis Fellow: Researching Autism in the Lab



Maya Eylon '19 may have helped pave a way to diagnosing autism early in a child's life. Between her junior and senior years, Eylon joined an international team of scientists in Israel for a summer-long research project studying the endocannabinoid levels in children with autism. Endocannabinoids play an important role in a diverse range of neurophysiological processes including neural development, neuroimmune function, synaptic plasticity, pain, reward, and affective state. After she and her colleagues studied samples from 200 children—100 with autism, 100 without—they discovered that the differences in their endocannabinoid levels, before any treatment, were significant.

“Almost across the board, endocannabinoid levels are decreased in the children who have autism when compared to neurotypical children,” Eylon said. This could give doctors a biological sign to look for after infancy, rather than waiting for social signs to appear. Further studies are needed, but the team’s findings may also provide a basis for future research about whether medical cannabis would work as a treatment for autism’s behavioral issues that aren’t responsive to current treatments.

Eylon, who self-designed her own pre-med major through the Whittier Scholars Program, is well on her way to a career in medicine. Before joining the study in Israel, she had spent two prior summers

conducting research in medical labs—including assisting on a study on rickettsia bacteria from patients in Nepal.

But joining the lab in Israel was of special personal importance to Eylon. Her family is from Israel and she was eager to spend a few months there, while flexing her growing biochemistry skills at the same time. After emailing almost 30 labs, the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem accepted. “The research was fascinating, so I jumped on board.”

She was halfway across the world, but Eylon felt relatively at home around the lab. She had just completed her organic chemistry course at Whittier, which gave her hands-on experience with techniques like gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, a method for identifying substances in a test sample. With that background knowledge, coupled with her prior summers devoted to research, Eylon skillfully navigated the busy laboratory.

She’s grateful for the experience, as well as for the financial support that made it possible for her to spend several months overseas: the **Mary Davis Fellowship in Public Service**. The fellowship supports students in internships or research related to economic development and the general improvement of the human condition.

ALUMNA SHARES HER STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Entrepreneur Jasmine (Juarez) Star '02 has heard a lot of noes throughout her career, but that never stopped her. Today, she is recognized as one of the top 10 wedding photographers in the world and runs her own company.

Unbeknownst to her at the time, Star's career began as an undergraduate business student at Whittier College. During her junior year, she took a photography course with sociology professor sal johnston and discovered her creative side.

"Whittier was priming me to use different parts of my mind, body, and soul to create something," she said.

After Whittier, she attended law school but decided to take some time off to care for her mother, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer a few years prior. Against all odds, her mom went into remission. It was during this time that Star realized a career in law was not for her and decided to pursue a career as a photographer. Through Google and YouTube tutorials, she taught herself the needed skills to launch her photography business.



"I taught myself how to art direct, I taught myself how to photograph, how to write, how to style, how to create marketing strategies for small business owners," said Star.

Without any prior experience or clients, Star didn't have an easy time breaking into the field and she had to find a way to work around the noes. Thankfully, Star had a strong foundation that helped carry her forward. As a first-generation college graduate, Star's immigrant parents always told her she could "become anything she wanted to."

Throughout her journey, Star decided to blog about her experience and gained a strong following. That blog would eventually be

the launching pad for her business, Social Curator—a social media membership site.

In an interview for the podcast *Success Unfiltered*, Star shares her story about overcoming obstacles to build an internationally recognized, award-winning business.

Her mission today is to empower small business owners to grow their brand on social media and help them "live their best life." Every month, she creates marketing plans along with photos and captions for her clients to help them achieve their own success.

TO LISTEN TO THE PODCAST VISIT
WHITTIER.EDU/MOREROCK.

ALUMNUS USHERS IN A NEW AGE OF SPORTS MEDIA



In this increasingly digital world, U.S. sports fans are quickly shifting away from traditional viewing platforms and onto digital ones. Among this tidal wave of sports streaming is DAZN, a digital network and global company partly led by alumnus Ben Cohon '10. DAZN gives sports fans access to live, on-demand boxing, NFL and soccer games, MLB content, and MMA fights across North America.

Cohon has always been passionate about sports. He played baseball at Whittier and is thrilled that he gets to work in the field that he loves. He hopes that DAZN will be an innovative part of an evolving media landscape, and will disrupt how people consume sports content.

"This is a great way to be a part of the future media landscape," Cohon said of his work.

As the head of strategy at DAZN, Cohon has numerous responsibilities. Among other things, he plays a leading role in marketing and promotions, sales, programming, branding, broadcasting, and managing online content and revenue streams.

After graduating from Whittier with a major in business administration, Cohon earned his master's degree in sports business from Columbia University. He went on to take leadership positions at ESPN and Marvel, where he built his network and gained valuable experience for his own business venture.

Cohon also credits the unique education he received at Whittier for his success. "I learned a lot from having a liberal arts education. It taught me to look at things differently, and put on a liberal arts lens when I am evaluating opportunities for brands from a strategic perspective," he said.

Cohon has not only kept his liberal arts education always in mind, but has kept in touch with lifelong friends he made in College while playing Poets baseball. Cohon is getting married this summer and former teammates, Cory Goodchild '12 and Nick Amicone '12, will stand as groomsmen.

Cohon also believes in paying it forward and has given back to his alma mater. "It is important to me that [Whittier College] does everything it can to continue to innovate and create future leaders," he added.

POET LEADS IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA MARKET

Ryan Liebling '03 has been with Facebook for the past six years. As a client partner based in Chicago, Liebling works with retail clients to drive value for their businesses. He collaborates with some of the world's top tech and media companies to implement business strategies and drive profitability using Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and others.

Liebling guides his big-name clients in everything from building the next best marketing campaign, conceiving and carrying out business visions, and creating successful advertisement and organization strategies.

A business administration major at Whittier, Liebling took the first class that Professor Dan Duran taught at the College. "That class was where I became interested in business. Dan

Duran gave me a real-world view of business and got me really excited about it," he said.

Liebling has kept in touch with Duran ever since, and credits his support and encouragement for his choice to pursue an MBA at the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. After graduating, Liebling worked in finance until a serendipitous networking connection led him to Facebook in 2013.

Liebling gives Whittier credit for his quick climb to success. "The liberal arts education and the community at Whittier College prepared me to connect with people and build relationships. That's really key to my career. Whittier also creates independent thinkers. Walking to my business class, then to science,



then to my job as a teaching assistant—it really made me a well-rounded graduate," he said.

Liebling fondly remembers living in the baseball house with his tight-knit group of friends, and attending all of the Poet baseball games. Recently, he went on a Sonoma County wine tour with some of his lifelong friends from the College. He hopes to foster more alumni connections via Facebook – he recently started a group page for Poet alumni in the Midwest. He invites area alumni to join.

POETS UNITE FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Whittier College's TOBGLAD (Trans, Other-identified, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Allies for Diversity) Club has joined forces with alumni activists to develop a queer center in the City of Whittier. The Gateway Cities LGBTQ Center will be the first-ever Whittier-based brick-and-mortar resource for LGBTQ+ community members.

The organizers, alumni Megan Hobza '93 and Justin Valero '11 along with current students Cole DiGrazia '21, Danielle Pesqueira '21, Ariel Horton '21, Stephanie Whang '21, and Sierra Goodrich '21, have met regularly to discuss and plan the development of the Center, which already has the outspoken support of some local officials. The group also organized a social mixer to raise awareness.

Local activist Hobza is a leader at Sustainable City, a non-profit grassroots civic engagement group focused on voter mobilization, local business sustainability, jobs programs, environmental initiatives, and more. Sustainable City publishes a weekly news and events bulletin for the greater Whittier community, and they collaborate with the Quaker Campus student newspaper to co-publish important stories.

Valero is a faculty member at California State University, San Bernardino, and a commissioner with Los Angeles County Public Health HIV/AIDS Programs, where he works to bring resources, services, and awareness to the sexual health issues of the east side of L.A. County. He contributes his knowledge and experience in public health to the development of the Center.



According to Valero, his and Hobza's involvement stems from their deep commitment to the community as well as from their shared experience at Whittier College.

"[The College] really instills the importance of connecting with other people, understanding other cultures, other ideologies and identities—and we have kept that with us," said Valero.

Valero and Hobza are active members of the Whittier College Alumni Association.

classNOTES

1940s

1943

Bobbie E. (Jerome) Catlin led a happy, fulfilling and long life. She died after celebrating her 97th birthday and the holidays with her family. Catlin was a passionate musician and retired teacher who was married to her husband Buck Catlin for nearly 70 years.

COMBATting
PATRIARCHAL MYTHS

Brinn Carter '05 and **Georgia Faye Hirsty '07** are the co-founders and co-directors of **Frailty Myths**, an Oakland-based nonprofit devoted to deconstructing the social myth that women and feminine-identified individuals are weak.

The women-of-color led organization aims to build power among women, trans, and gender non-conforming people by fostering skills traditionally considered the domain of cis men.

Through hands-on workshops in woodworking, sailing, climbing, farming, and other self-reliance skills, Carter and Hirsty aim to cultivate new models of power and create safe spaces for marginalized communities to grow and thrive. Carter is proud to report that 53% of **Frailty Myths** workshop participants identify as people of color, 47% identify as LGBT+, and 43% make less than \$30,000 per year.

Frailty Myths is the realization of a longtime conversation the two of us have had that started at Whittier College, about shattering myths around what women can do, not just in the garage or at sea, but as leaders of grassroots organizations," Carter explained.

Carter and Hirsty returned to Whittier last year to talk to current students, and they hope to continue their outreach and maintain a strong connection with the campus.

1950s

1951

Bruce M. Mitchell passed away on July 21, 2018. Mitchell taught elementary school in Lynwood and Goleta, California, was an elementary school principal in Goleta, and was a professor of education in Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington, for 33 years. Mitchell is survived by his wife of 60 years, Radell, three children, and seven grandchildren.

1953

Joan "Jody" Burtress keeps busy with activities with her family and friends, playing tennis, and volunteering at St. James Presbyterian Church in La Habra Heights, California. Burtress also does volunteer work for Meals on Wheels and is a coordinator for her tennis club.

Mary Louise Marshburn, a self-described homemaker and retired teacher, is married to **Theodore Marshburn '51**. The couple have two grandchildren who are Whittier College graduates, as well as a grandchild who is a current student. Marshburn fills her days with gardening, cooking, and volunteering for her church.

Herbert Charles Newsom passed away May 2, 2019, in Tustin, California. Newsom earned a B.S. in chemistry from Whittier College, and was lucky enough to have his own father, Dr. Roy Newsom, as his chemistry professor for several classes. Following graduation, Newsom served in the army during the Korean conflict and he continued his education at USC — earning a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, and he went on to have a fulfilling 40-year career with the U.S. Borax Research Corp. He is survived by his spouse, Barbara Graves Newsom; his son, **David W. Newsom '78**; his daughters, **Cynthia Newsom Cavallero '80** and Hailey Newsom Dole; and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

1958

Bob Osborn taught and coached baseball and basketball for 14 years—at Los Altos High School and California State University, Fullerton, and was



a college basketball referee for 30 years. He also played fast pitch softball for 15 years, helping his teams win four world championships. He was voted into the Fast Pitch Hall of Fame in 2004. Osborn is currently the president of his family business, Whittier Fertilizer Co. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, he belongs to three private golf courses, and has served as a board member for the Southern California Golf Association.

Shannon Belles is a retired teacher who has served as a volunteer for the Community Center for the Arts in Escondido, California, for the past 24 years. She is also a docent at a health resort in Mexico. In her free time, she enjoys knitting, walking, and reading. Belles recently enjoyed a trip to Milford Track, a famous hiking trail in the mountain ranges and rain forests of New Zealand.

Retired teacher and accountant **Judy (Winchell) Sights** has been actively involved in land speed racing for the past 20 years, as a participant and volunteer with the Southern California Timing Association and Bonneville Nationals, Inc. Sights currently coordinates the 180 volunteers who help put on the Bonneville Speed Week event. She was elected to the Dry Lakes Hall of Fame for her exceptional contributions to the sport. She also serves as chairperson of the SCTA/BNI Mike Waters Memorial Scholarship Committee, which has provided over \$70,000 in awards to students.

1960s

1963

Elliott P. Hume is a retired social worker and, until 2015, worked as a tour guide in Buffalo, New York. He now volunteers at the First United Methodist Church, located a short walk away from the Whittier College campus. Hume is most proud of his loving marriage with Carol Yocum Hume, their five children, 14 grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Jack Nahmias is a Rotary officer, church council president, and local volunteer. He is grateful for his loving marriage to his wife, Joanne, and a proud father of six, grandfather of 10, and great-grandfather of three. Nahmias credits Whittier for opening his eyes to his career path as a school district administrator, from which he is now retired.

1964

◀ **Frank Olson, Craig Elliott, and Susan (Perry) Elliott** enjoyed a Catalina Cruise together. It was a great day trip which included dolphin and whale sightings.

classNOTES



1965

▲ In a town destroyed by the California wildfires, Paradise High School basketball coach **Jerry Cleek** didn't let anything stand in his team's way of playing. After the fire, Cleek used basketball to help students stay strong. All but two of the team players lost their homes. Cleek borrowed a gym, where some team members commuted up to three hours round trip just to be on the court playing basketball. "It wasn't as important for them as players, as it was for them as people," Cleek said in an interview with NBC News.

1966

Gerhard Schaefer served as a public junior high school teacher for 37 years. He recently retired from his job as funeral director at Rose Hills Mortuary, where he worked for the past 12 years. Schaefer is an avid reader, a dedicated volunteer at his church, and enjoys doing ancestral family research.



1967

▲ Brothers **Paul F. Edinger '67** (left) and **David Edinger '71** (right) represented the Purple and Gold on their trip to Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic.

1970s

1971

Film marketing and public relations executive **Cheryl Boone Isaacs** was recognized as a trailblazer in her field by the National Black Public Relations Society, Los Angeles chapter (BPRS-LA) during their 20th Anniversary Awards Celebration. Boone-Isaacs, immediate past president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, launched A2020, an Academy initiative with the goal of improving representation of diversity and includes a five-year plan to focus on industry practices and hiring.

Professor of Philosophy and Religion **Les Muray** retired from Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. During his tenure at Milton, Muray was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Hungary, his native country. Muray has authored two books, and published nearly 100 articles which have been translated into five languages.

James (Jim) McCauley worked for the Los Angeles County Elections Department for 14 years. In 1988, he moved to Placer County and was elected county clerk recorder and registrar of voters. McCauley also served as president of the County Records' Association of California. He was elected to office a total of six times before he retired in 2016. Over the years, McCauley met three U.S. presidents, became friends with Maureen Reagan, and helped pass many bills to improve California voting systems.

SEIZING THE DAY
IN A FILMMAKER'S LIFE

Filmmaker **Eric Hinwood's '16** first feature film *Carpe Diem: European Escapade* has secured international distribution through Amazon Prime.

The shooting for the film began about seven years ago and involved several weeks of filming in locations such as London, France, Barcelona, Hollywood, and Whittier.

His passion for filmmaking led him to design his own major through the Whittier Scholars Program, combining film production and business. He also double-majored in French and minored in Spanish. During his time at Whittier—and with the help of his professors and classmates—Hinwood took his film through post-production and became established as a working actor and filmmaker. Former Whittier College film instructor Rich Cheatham '68 was one of the first people to watch the film and helped Hinwood make editing decisions.

1972

Gerald Tom celebrated his 45th anniversary with **Lynette Siu Tom '73** this year. They have four grandchildren, all living in Honolulu. Tom also celebrated his 50th high school reunion from Punahou School, where two of his grandchildren are attending.



1973

▲ Longtime Carolina Panthers' running backs coach **Jim Skipper** retired this year after spending nearly half his life coaching in the NFL. Skipper coached some of the leading rushers in Panthers' history, and played a key role in advancing the team to the Super Bowl. In addition, Skipper served as the running backs coach for five different NFL franchises over 32 seasons, including the New Orleans Saints, the Arizona Cardinals, and the New York Giants. At Whittier, Skipper played defensive back and was a return man on the football team.



CARPE DIEM CAST: Aaron Shi, Collin McDowell '16, Eric Hinwood '16, and Selena Welling.

While it took several years to finalize the film, Hinwood was always driven by his passion for the project. "I realized that if I'd given up anytime in the past seven years, this film would never be released and all that work would be for nothing. I couldn't let that happen," he said.

Hinwood now has more than 60 films under his belt and has worked as an actor, director, writer, and producer. He also continues to work with his fellow Poets, including 14 alumni credited in the film.



Stan Smith (left) and Lauren Nico '15 (right) are on the same U.S. Masters swim team, the Long Beach Grunions. They compete at Masters swim meets and showed off their Poet Pride in matching gear.



1974

Paul Ferguson has been named Azusa Pacific University's 17th President. Prior to this appointment, Ferguson served as president of Ball State University and the University of Maine; the founding dean of the School of Science, Technology, and Health at Biola University; and held leadership positions at Southern Illinois University, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas,

and the University of Louisiana, Monroe. Ferguson is an accomplished academic, recognized for his dedication to scholarship, his vast research and publishing in scientific and academic literature, and his work as an undergraduate professor.

1975

Michael Barba, a retired health inspector, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on August 26, 2018, after a long and courageous battle with lymphoma.

Award-winning journalist Mohammed Jassim Al Anqar received the Media Personality of the Year award from Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai



Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Al-Sager was recognized for his work as founder and publisher of the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al Jarida*.

1976

Wendela (Whitcomb) Marsh retired from Merced County Office of Education in 2016 and published a book, *The ABCs of Autism in the Classroom: Setting the Stage for Success* in 2018. ▶



NEW ASSISTANT SHERIFF IN TOWN

Robin Limon '87 has been promoted to Assistant Sheriff for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Limon has been a department leader in numerous high-profile positions and brings a diverse leadership background to her new position.

As assistant sheriff, Limon will oversee countywide operations, which include the detective division, technology and support, special operations division, and countywide services division, which encompasses more than 200 facilities located across the 4,752 square miles of Los Angeles County.

Limon graduated from the academy in 1989 and most recently served as Chief, overseeing the court services division. Limon has received numerous awards and commendations throughout her career for her dedication to the department and her hard work in the many communities she has served.

Limon has a B.A. in business administration from Whittier College and a master's degree in emergency services administration from California State University, Long Beach.



1979

Laura Klein Mosqueda started her 18th year with Boone County Schools in Northern Kentucky, moving to Conner High School as a youth service center coordinator, where she works to reduce barriers to academic success. Mosqueda says she loves working with high school students after working in elementary schools for 17 years.

1980s

1981

Debbie (Fox) Eytcheson retired in June after a 36-year-long career in teaching. She and her husband, Dennis, will be moving into their new custom-built home in Idaho Falls, Idaho.



1985

Former Whittier Trustee Vincent J. Daigneault was recognized as a 2018 Good Scout of the Year by the Greater Los Angeles Area Council Boy Scouts of America and the Whittier/Santa Fe Springs Dinner Committee for his many years of service to the Whittier community. Daigneault, who received a bachelor's degree in business

classNOTES

administration from Whittier, was acknowledged for his involvement with the Purple & Gold Club (athletics support), Whittier College Board of Trustees, and his dedication to the Whittier Host Lions Club, where he's been a member for almost 30 years.

1989

Stacy Whisler is a full-time mom married to fellow Poet **Joel Whisler '88**. In her free time she enjoys walking and volunteering with various organizations in Fullerton, California.

1990s

1991

Whittier-based restaurant Colonia Pública, owned and operated by chef **Ricardo Díaz**, was included in the *Los Angeles Times*' list of 101 best restaurants. This is Díaz's fifth time on the list, appearing for the first time in 2014. The restaurant is known for its signature Mexican fideo dish, which the publication describes as "the chicken soup that's as comforting as you always want it to be."

1992

In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, NBC News selected some of the best recent books written by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. One of the selections was *John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of 'No-No Boy'*, co-edited by **Floyd Cheung**.



1993

◀ **Dave Johnson** was named vice president of enterprise solutions at Rollick, Inc., a marketing and advertising agency specializing in the powersports, RV, marine, and

industrial equipment industries. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. An avid outdoorsman, he loves to spend time in the mountains and lakes near his home.



TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER

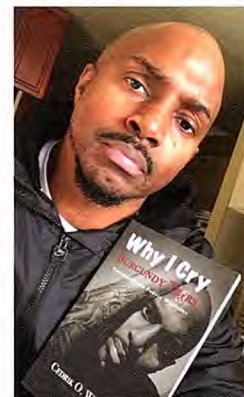
The 2018 documentary *Church & State* tells the unlikely story of an inexperienced gay activist and a tiny Salt Lake City law firm that joined forces to overturn Utah's ban on gay marriage. The film was screened during Whittier College's Social Justice Week and was accompanied by a Q&A with the film's co-director and cinematographer alumna **Holly Tuckett '89**.

Church & State won the Special Jury Award at the American Documentary Film Festival in Palm Springs and the Best Documentary Award at the International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema in Nice, France, along with a number of other nominations. It has screened in Kosovo and Mexico City as part of the North South Doc Network, and had a short theatrical run in Tuckett's hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah, and in Columbus, Ohio.

Tuckett's company, Flying Hat Productions, has produced more than 35 short narrative documentary, music video, commercial, and industrial projects. Her producer credits include the narrative film *Una Vida Mejor*, which successfully toured the festival circuit. Working as a skilled freelancer in the camera and production departments, her work has contributed to more than 40 documentary and television productions. Tuckett, a Thalian, lives in Salt Lake City, with her life partner, Stephanie, and their cat-dog, Como.

1994

After being diagnosed with stage three multiple myeloma, a blood cancer, in 2012, nearly dying and missing one year of work, **Cedrik Wallace**



was inspired to write. He took to Instagram under the user name @poeticsoldier where he shared his poetry, thoughts, and quotes and was selected as a top 100 inspirational Instagrammer. In December 2018 he published two books, *Why I Cry* and *Burgundy Tears*, a memoir about his

journey with cancer and *It's My Write*, a collection of poetry about self-love, relationships, social injustice, racism, education, cancer, and family. Six years on, he remains in remission and continues to be an educator for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

1997

Wendy Lucas was promoted to full professor this year and is mid-way through her fifth year as department chair of the history department at the University of Central Arkansas. She is the first woman to hold that position in over 100 years.

Taylor English Duma LLP recently announced the addition of **William DeClercq** as a partner in the firm's litigation practice. Prior to joining Taylor English, DeClercq started and ran an independent law practice for more than seven years, assisting clients in complex litigation and business matters. DeClercq also co-founded a second law firm which provided outsourced general counsel services to startups and small and mid-size businesses throughout Southern California. In the 15 years that DeClercq has practiced law, he has represented a wide range of clients: large and small businesses, individuals, and Fortune 500 companies. In 2019, DeClercq was selected as a California Super Lawyer and was previously selected as a Rising Star for four years. DeClercq is actively involved with pro bono work, specifically in public interest representation including matters related to adoption, unlawful detainer defense, and disability rights advocacy.

Outside of his law practice, DeClercq is a writer, actor, and comic, recently seen in a full-length legal improvisation and sketch comedy show at the Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena, called *Law &*



ALUMNA RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

La Serna High School principal **Ann Fitzgerald '93 MA'98** was named an Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 15 Administrator of the Year. Region 15 is the largest charter in ACSA, and is composed of 25 charter districts across Los Angeles County. The award recognizes exceptional leadership, the fostering of safe and effective school cultures, and using creativity and innovation to solve problems in the educational environment. Fitzgerald has been an educator for the Whittier Union High School District for the past 25 years. Under her leadership, La Serna High School has achieved a 96 percent daily attendance rate and a 98 percent graduation rate, and 70% of all graduates meet college entrance requirements.

Disorder—LIVE. He is in the process of launching a legal/comedy podcast, with a working title of *Laying Down the Law*.

Danny D. Reynolds was honored by the Associated Students of Whittier College (ASWC) with the Uptown Business Award during the 2019 Student Life Awards ceremony. Reynolds, who owns a restaurant



near campus, has partnered with Whittier student groups for various events. In particular he has welcomed the ASWC Senate and Veterans Club, providing them

is a strong supporter of the military and supports Operation Gratitude at his establishment, gathering and mailing letters from customers to the troops. Reynolds has also attended events sponsored by the Veterans Club on campus. He invites all alumni to check out The Alumni Sports Restaurant. "We look forward to bringing back memories and having lots of fun."



1999

◀ **Marty Alvarado** has been appointed the executive vice chancellor for educational services at California Community College. Alvarado will create and manage policies and programs linked

to student support, and work to increase student completion rates and diminish achievement gaps. Previously, Alvarado served as senior director of cross-sector networks at Jobs for the Future, a national organization which encourages innovation in education and the workforce. She has also served in several senior leadership roles, including workforce development director and institutional resource development director at Long Beach City College.



Sitting on top of the back seat of a 1968 red convertible Corvette, **Andrea Barber** waved to the cheering crowds as the celebrity grand

marshal for the City of Whittier's 65th Annual Uptown Christmas Parade. The *Fuller House* and *Full House* star documented her experience in a video blog for her YouTube channel.

2000s

2001

Geoff Hinds has been named the new director of the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center. Hinds was selected for his outstanding experience, which includes previously serving as the CEO of the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds and Adelanto Stadium in Victorville, California; the CEO of the Tulare County Fair; and the fair and festivals



LAUREN VAU '16 UNCORKED

Growing up on her family's ranch in Mendocino County where the vineyards were in her backyard, **Lauren Vau '16** has always had an appreciation for wine. Now, she's helping create her own labels of Sauvignon Blanc, Rosé of Carignane, and coming soon, Cabernet Sauvignon—all from her family's organic grapes.

After graduating from Whittier, Vau launched the wine and lifestyle blog *Pinot & Peep Toes* with the goal of making the world of wine less intimidating for her generation of drinkers. It was while she was an English major that she learned to hone her writing skills and tell stories.

"I couldn't imagine not writing every day after College, so I simply didn't stop," she said.

Through her lifestyle blog, she is able to introduce a variety of wines to a younger audience while also delving into other topics such as beauty, fashion, and entertainment. It was while writing for her blog and interviewing other winemakers that she fell even more in love with the wine community and wanted to continue to pursue that as a career.

Coming together with her family—who are eighth-generation farmers and have been in the grape business for 40+ years—they have collaborated to launch their own wine label, Boeket. A labor of love, Vau is involved in every stage of the process—from picking the grapes, to working with an artist to create the artwork on the labels, to tasting the wine throughout its aging process, to getting the wine to consumers. Looking ahead, Vau hopes to bring Boeket to the tables of various communities, including Whittier.

"It would be so special to have my wine poured in the restaurants I loved while in college," she said.

classNOTES



NEW HEAD OF METROLINK

Stephanie Wiggins '92 was appointed CEO of Metrolink by its board of directors, becoming the first woman and the first African American to hold the position in the rail company's 26-year history.

In her role as CEO, Wiggins leads a railroad that covers 2.8 million train miles per year and 400 million passenger miles per year. She will also oversee Metrolink's ongoing efforts to replace its aging diesel-powered engines with clean-air locomotives.

Previously, Wiggins was deputy chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Throughout her career, she has overseen Metro Express Lanes, served as regional programs director for the Riverside County Transportation Commission, and was administrative analyst for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, among other roles.

Wiggins is a member of the board of the American Public Transportation Association and is the founding president of the Inland Empire chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar.

Among her goals at Metrolink, Wiggins is raising the profile of the train, with particular emphasis on its ability to improve the quality of life for people residing on the edges or outside of L.A. County, yet working at businesses in the city, she told the *L.A. Sentinel*.

"Metrolink is at a stage where it can be very transformative for the region. I like to say that Metrolink connects people to opportunity every day. It's a different type of opportunity," said Wiggins to the publication.

manager of the San Mateo County Event Center. In his new post, Hinds is leading the daily operations and marketing of the 320-acre Fair & Expo Center, which, in addition to the annual Fair, hosts more than 400 events each year.

2003

Marleena Barber was recently interviewed for *Madameactivist*, a blog about "differences and identity."

The singer and actress gave advice on albinism, music, and theatre. As a disability rights advocate, Barber encourages others to learn music, accept themselves as they are, and grow by cultivating their strengths. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in nonprofit arts management at the University of Denver.

2004

Politics and international relations professor **Kiril Kolev** has been named director of Hendrix College's Odyssey Program, a nationally recognized engaged learning initiative. Kolev, who currently chairs the department of politics and international relations, joined the Hendrix faculty in 2011. Since 2017, he has held the James and Emily Bost Odyssey Professorship, which has funded his recent research on election quality, electoral systems, and political clientelism.

2008



▲ **Nicole (Warner) Sullivan** married Todd Sullivan March 17, 2018, at Mountain Meadow Country Club in Pomona, California.

2010s

2011

► **Mary Helen Truglia** and **Rème Bohlin** recently presented at the Renaissance Society of America (RSA) annual conference in Toronto, Canada. The alumnae presented alongside Professor of English Wendy Furman-Adams on the study of gender and time in early modern literature. The RSA is the largest international learned society devoted to the study of the era 1300-1700. Bohlin and Truglia

are in the process of completing their Ph.D.s in renaissance literature. They are also teaching undergraduate classes and are assistant directors of writing programs at their respective universities. They plan to complete their doctorate programs in the next two years and seek positions in academia thereafter. Following the conference, **Shannon Jaime**, who is in the process of completing her Ph.D. in nineteenth-century literature at the University of Rochester, joined Furman-Adams, Bohlin, and Truglia for a visit to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

2013

Stephanie Carmona '13 MA'15 organized a campus screening of a digital storytelling series, VOCES, that gave Whittier-area mothers and grandmothers an opportunity to tell their stories. VOCES was produced by the Community Education Program Initiative (CEPI), which is an expansion of the College's long-standing Fifth Dimension program housed in the Department of Child Development and Education. Carmona, CEPI program manager and one of the original creators of the program, worked with the women directly on the project. Since 2015, she has done extensive community outreach and worked with participants to create meaningful initiatives.

Cynthia Loza ►

was recently featured as one of "Four Under 40: Rising Stars in Industry" in *SC&RA News*, a magazine for the crane, lifting, and transport industry. Loza is currently a safety manager at Buckner



Heavylift Cranes in North Carolina. Following graduation from Whittier, Loza worked as a social compliance auditor for a global safety certification company. While overseeing the safety program at Buckner, Loza has also earned an associate of science degree in occupational health and safety from Columbia Southern University.

2016

Luke Boardman started a three-year physical therapy doctoral degree program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He would like to thank the Whittier Department of Kinesiology.



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2017



◀ **Ryan-Hunter Kondo** (on the right) has made a meaningful break into the world of professional sports. After serving as a creative content producer for UCLA

Athletics, Kondo is now working as a digital video producer for the Denver Broncos. Kondo has also worked with professional athletes including Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurney and Atlanta Hawks point guard Trae Young.

2018



◀ **Erika Ngo** was selected into one of the country's most prestigious fellowship programs. As part of the 2018-2019 class of Capital Fellows, administered by the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento,

Ngo worked in the office of Assembly Member Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., who oversees California's 59th District. Upon completing the program, Ngo earned a Capital Fellows Graduate Certificate in Applied Policy and Government and received six graduate units.



TURNING A PASSION INTO A CAREER

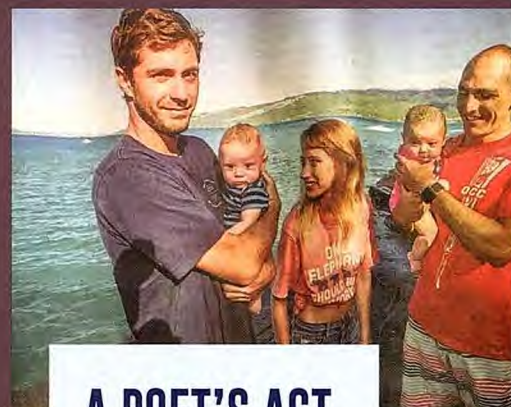
Stephanie Alcala '15 loves coffee. And, she's made a career out of it.

While Alcala loves to drink a nice cup of java in the morning, she enjoys studying and researching the plant even more. Her coffee career took root while she was working as a barista at Los Angeles-based Groundwork Coffee Co., where she discovered an interest in how the beans are cultivated.

She is currently the sustainability supervisor for Coffee Manufactory, a new sustainable coffee roasting company that is part of the San Francisco-based Tartine Group.

After graduating from Whittier with a degree in environmental science, Alcala obtained a master's degree from the University of Michigan in ecology and evolutionary biology frontiers and traveled to Panama to further study the coffee plant. This past summer, she was awarded the Specialty Coffee Association's 2018 Re:co Symposium Fellowship and is the first-ever recipient of its Leadership Equality and Diversity Scholarship.

Alcala recently visited Associate Professor of Environmental Science Cinzia Fissore's class. She spoke about the variety of coffee cultivators, what specialty coffee is, and more importantly how it fits into the supply chain of the coffee industry. In coming months, Alcala will lend her expertise to the College's new coffee orchard, a project lead by Fissore and professor Nat Zappia (read more on page 4).



A POET'S ACT OF HEROISM

A day of surfing along the scenic waters of Honolulu turned into a life-changing moment for **Sean Parsa '02**, who helped rescue 18-year-old Kalei Kolivas from drowning.

While out in the water, Parsa and his friend Jesse Yonover noticed someone a short distance away waving for help. The surfers sprang into action and headed over to help Kolivas, who had hit his head on the reef and lost consciousness.

Acting quickly, Parsa placed Kolivas on his surfboard and began administering CPR while Yonover held the board in place. Parsa had recently learned CPR in preparation for the birth of his twin children.

"I didn't want to give up, but I felt like nothing was happening. Then a third time just all this foam came out of her mouth and nose and then she slightly started breathing," said Parsa in an online article posted by the local ABC affiliate KITV.

KITV shared Parsa and Yonover's story along with the story of four other good Samaritans who rescued another swimmer on the same location the very next day. All six were recognized by the Mayor of Honolulu during a special ceremony where Kolivas had the opportunity to meet Parsa and Yonover to thank them for saving her life.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN L.A. COUNTY

Perla Hernandez Trumkul '96 was recently appointed to the fourth district governing council of the Los Angeles County Initiative on Women and Girls (WGI).

The WGI examines the systemic issues that lead to inequitable gender outcomes. The governing council recommends changes to improve quality of life, increase leadership opportunities, enhance equity and justice, and create pathways and partnerships for women and girls in Los Angeles County.

Trumkul is the district chief of staff for United States Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, where she runs the local district office and manages a team that serves the San Gabriel Valley in the 32nd Congressional District. A lifelong San Gabriel Valley resident, Trumkul works to gain public support for policy issues relating to water, transportation and infrastructure, education, immigration reform, veterans, mental health, and healthcare. She also serves as a board member for the YWCA of the Greater San Gabriel Valley.

Trumkul holds a B.A. in sociology from Whittier College and a master's in public administration from the University of Southern California. She is currently working on her doctorate degree in education with an emphasis on leadership and organizational change at the University of Southern California.



“IT MEANS SO MUCH TO ME TO HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY SUCH WONDERFUL PEOPLE,” REFLECTED BERGERSON, “PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES I HAVE CHANGED, AND WHO HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE.”

PROFESSOR FRED BERGERSON: A LIFE OF SERVICE

One of Whittier's longest-serving and most popular professors, **Fred Bergerson**, passed away on January 10, 2019.

During his more than four decades at Whittier, Bergerson taught thousands of Poets in the political science department. His lively manner, devotion to his field, and dedication to the success of his students created a strong following among both students and alumni.

Bergerson earned degrees at Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt Universities—between which he acquired his “other education” via the U.S. Army, specializing in military intelligence. He attained the rank of Captain, seeing action in Vietnam with the renowned 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division. He specialized in bureaucratic politics, international and homeland security policy, and civil-military relations. He taught courses from the fundamental, Introduction to Political Science, to the original, Federalism and Urban Life, and his signature JanTerm course, Warfare: Pursuit of Military Security.

In 2010, Bergerson led a group of alumni and friends of the College on a 10-day trip through Vietnam. For Bergerson, a Vietnam veteran, it was his first trip back in 42 years. With the 1st Cavalry, Bergerson participated in the relief of Khe Sanh and received a Bronze Star for his meritorious achievement in assisting in the planning of the successful



relief of the base. During the return trip, the group journeyed from Ho Chi Min City (Saigon) to Hanoi. On the last leg of the trip, Bergerson led the group in a remembrance ceremony at a rural site that was once LZ Evans to honor four fallen soldiers—Richard Frasca, Ray Robinson, Robert Wiedemann, and Ross Applegate—who served under him.

In the spring of 2018, Bergerson was honored for his amazing accomplishments at a farewell gathering at the College. He was surrounded by former students, colleagues, friends, family, and loved ones who all expressed their gratitude, fondness, and cherished memories of their time with him.

Upon his retirement, Bergerson continued to occupy his time with familiar activities like talking with past students and “being actively aggravated” by politicians. About not being on campus on a daily basis, he said he would most miss his “extended family” at Whittier. He cherished the joy and insights shared between him and students over the years, as well as time spent with his colleagues, “raising questions about contemporary society, politics, policy, each other, students, the world, the future, and the past.”

“It means so much to me to have been surrounded by such wonderful people,” reflected Bergerson, “people whose lives I have changed, and who have changed my life.”

Gifts to the Fred Bergerson Endowed Scholarship can be sent to Whittier College's Office of Advancement.



REMEMBERING PROFESSOR STEPHEN GOTHOLD '63

Professor Emeritus of Music
Stephen Gothold '63 passed away
on December 5, 2018, at the age of 77.

Gothold served as director of choral activities at Whittier College from 1977 to 2003. Beloved by the Poet community, he will be remembered fondly for his passion for teaching and devotion to his students and the community. Gothold frequently returned to campus to reunite with fellow classmates and former students. He was on campus most recently in October for Whittier Weekend 2018, attending the choir reunion and leading dozens of his former students in song. During the 2013 choir reunion, his former students bestowed upon him a special award in recognition of and appreciation for his dedicated service and unwavering leadership in music appreciation.

During his time as a student at Whittier, Gothold himself was a member of the choir and also studied piano. "I was with a very inspiring group of people, there were about 30 of us, and we were in the music building 20 hours a day. Margaretha Lohmann, who taught piano and was the chair of the music department, was a huge influence on me," said Gothold during a 2013 interview.

After graduating from Whittier, Gothold went on to receive an M.A. in music from Occidental College and a D.M.A. from USC. He also

studied at the International Bach Academy in Stuttgart, Germany, and participated in masters classes with other prominent music scholars.

When Gothold learned that the College was looking for a new choir director, he threw his hat into the ring. He admits he was eager to take over and, fortunately for the College, he was hired for the job. Gothold would go on to reign as choir director at Whittier for more than three decades, instilling his passion for music into the lives of what he estimated to be nearly 700 students. After his retirement from the College in 2003, he would go on to direct the City of Whittier's community masterworks ensemble, Chorale Bel Canto, comprised of local residents and Whittier faculty, staff, and students.

In addition to serving the Whittier community during his career, Gothold also served as president of the Southern California American Choral Directors Association, as an officer in the Choral Conductors Guild, and was a host, adjudicator, and clinician for the Southern California Vocal Association for more than 30 years. He also served as musical director/conductor for more than 100 musical theatre productions in professional and university productions and served as director of music ministries at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, California. Gothold also composed and narrated for an edition of *Tajar Tales*, a children's book.

Gifts to the Stephen Gothold '63 Annual Scholarship can be sent to Whittier College's Office of Advancement.

Elizabeth "Betty" I. Dean '41, January 5, 2019
 Bobbie E. (Jerome) Catlin '43, February 2019
 Julia (Silberberg) Cohen '43, March 15, 2019
 Harriet L. Twycross '43, June 2018
 Caroline P. Ireland '43, January 31, 2019
 Mrs. Ellen R. Conklin '44, March 28, 2019
 Doris W. Hughes '44, March 9, 2019
 Mary V. R. Thoren '46, 2018
 Laurel M. Meyer '48, November 8, 2018
 Ada C. Babine '48, November 28, 2018
 Ms. Lorna H. Pfluke '48, unknown
 Eleanor J. Hemphill '49, December 21, 2018
 Rev. Robert "Bob" L. Fitzgerald '50, March 28, 2019
 C. Dean Hill '50, February 15, 2019
 Ella Rose Price '50, 2019
 Lee A. Strong '50, July 17, 2018
 John C. Weston, Jr. '50, January 3, 2019
 Marion T. Barich '51, 2019
 Joanna L. Cochran '51, March 27, 2019
 Nellie M. Koart '51, 2019
 Bruce "Doc" M. Mitchell '51, July 21, 2018
 Imogene W. Wicker '51, December 2, 2018
 Lester H. Davis '52, April 1, 2019
 Dr. James "Jim" F. Cowan '53, March 2, 2019
 Dorothy L. Garrett '53, 2019
 Lois Carter Hardy '53, March 3, 2019
 Harold "Hal" F. Jones '53, 2018
 Nancy Lynne McIntyre '53, December 19, 2018
 Herbert Charles Newsom '53, May 2, 2019
 M. Maureen Stone '54, April 10, 2019
 Zell Greene '55, January 1, 2019
 Ronald D. Rogers, M.A. '55, June 2, 2018
 Dolores "Dee" R. Bagne '56, unknown
 Patricia "Pat" C. Sands '56, October 21, 2018
 Gerald D. Crosby '57, December 31, 2018
 Carol I. Bogie '58, April 2, 2019
 Gordon F. Dierks '58, June 5, 2018
 Coralynn A. Watkins '58, October 19, 2018
 Sylvia J. Wynkoop '58, unknown
 Marilyn J. Forst '60, January 2, 2019
 William B. Curtis '61, January 25, 2019
 Col. Richard "Dick" A. Partee '61, March 10, 2019
 Robert "Bob" H. Rau '62, February 1, 2019
 Guy Webster '62, February 5, 2019
 Robert "Bob" W. Burchit '63, April 15, 2019
 Stephen A. Gothold '63, December 5, 2018
 Thomas Kahler '65, February 13, 2019
 Janet Ann Thompson '66, August 3, 2018
 Robert M. Davis '67, April 11, 2019
 Prentiss "Arnie" Moore '67, March 3, 2019
 Jon R. Sutherland '68, November 28, 2018
 Jeffrey Kent McAdams '70, August 26, 2018
 Melissa B. Tommervik '70, November 27, 2018
 Stephen "Steve" L. Vincent '77, unknown
 Rex C. Porter '79, 2019
 Dan R. Walker '82, April 13, 2019
 Mark F. Haner '86, November 10, 2018
 James "Jay" R. Ferrante '93, April 9, 2019

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Richard Lichtenstein P'16

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Fred D. Anderson '66

Christopher G. Caldwell P'13 '15

Christopher T. Cross '62

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Raymond "Buck" Ferguson '67

Gerard P. Forster '87, P'08

Jennifer L. (Landford) Fuller '82,
P'17

Barbara (Ondrasik) Groce '57

Carey (Baker) Halio '95

Helen Newton Hartung P'13

Yukiyasu Hayashi P'10

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Jascha Kaykas-Wolff '98

Edwin Y. Keh '79, P'10 '15

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Meghan Morrissey P'16

Joyce Mullenbach '77

Bharat Patel P'16

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Richard I. Gilchrist '68, P'06 '07

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L.H.D. '05, P'88 '96

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SENIOR MOMENT

MANUEL CHAVEZ '19

HOMETOWN: PICO RIVERA, CA

MAJOR: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY (minor)

ACTIVITIES/INVOLVEMENT: Lancer Society, Residential Advisor, CEC High School Mentor Program, CEC Standiford Fellow, 2018-19 PIH Community Health Fellow

STUDY ABROAD: Salvador and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Honduras

MOST UNUSUAL THING I DID AT WHITTIER COLLEGE: New Member Education—this was a long, frustrating, but rewarding experience.

FAVORITE CLASS: Professor Paul Kjellberg's Philosophy of Simplicity JanTerm course. I had the opportunity to not only study Buddhism, but to experience it.

MOST CHALLENGING CLASS TAKEN: Organic Chemistry was like studying a new language.

RESEARCH IN BIOLOGY: Epidemiology is an interdisciplinary field that requires a skill set that goes beyond the lab. Designing a study from scratch was no easy task. I conducted an independent study that focused on the health effects caused by increased diesel traffic in Los Angeles. This study required me to travel to various residential cities in Los Angeles and measure particulate matter levels and traffic density.

WORKING AT THE CEC: At the CEC I was able to combine my science education with my civic engagement work. One of my focuses was how I could combine objective, empirical data, with a more socially based problem. This effort helped create and restructure various projects through the CEC.

PIH COMMUNITY HEALTH FELLOWSHIP: My focus was to combine public health data such as high school dropout rates and health-related factors such as obesity, and correlate it with educational opportunities for local youth. This was a very technical project, and I led a team of interns in creating an online interactive heat map that was sent to various local community members. This data is now being used to create a new mentor program within the Los Angeles area.

GLOBAL MEDICAL BRIGADES: The group traveled to Honduras in May 2018. This was the first year the club began, so we all didn't know what to expect. We ended up providing medical, dental, and public health services to rural communities in need. This was such a humbling and eye-opening experience.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION: Being a doctor was discouraged by my high school counselors; it was viewed as unattainable. It wasn't until my junior year of high school when I realized I could be a doctor if I put in the effort. Ever since then, I focused on studying health.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS: Peace Corps in Lesotho, Africa to work as an HIV/AIDS health educator for youth.

ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL: Epidemiologist with the CDC





POET HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND // OCTOBER 11-12

A CELEBRATION FOR THE ENTIRE POET FAMILY!

FRIDAY

Golden Anniversary Brunch*

Induction of the Class of 1969

Poet Musicale

Campus Tour (meet at The Rock @ 2 p.m.)

Meet with the Deans

Poet Family Foodie Tour*

POET AWARDS* (Join us in celebrating outstanding Whittier alumni!)

Stop by the Dezember Alumni House Hospitality Suite and look for info stations throughout lower campus for the most up-to-date schedule of events.

SATURDAY

Coffee and Croissants with the President Society Brunches*

Family Sessions – *Maximizing the Poet Experience*

Alumni Athletic Competitions

POET HOMECOMING FESTIVAL*

Parade of Poet Athletes

Poets vs. Occidental* *Battle for the Shoes*

48th Annual Tardeada (A family-friendly celebration of Latinx culture.)

Reunion Celebrations*

*Ticketed events

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Register for Homecoming 2019 and purchase your spirit pack at the same time! For only \$30 you will get limited-edition Whittier College branded spirit items. Price includes a \$5 tax-deductible gift to the Whittier Fund in support of student scholarships.

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